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Affairs of State

By Burton E. Stevenson

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CHAPTER XVI.

A Prince and His Ideals.

By what process of telepathy the Dowager Duchess of Markheim, dwelling in one corner of that gloomy old fortress which had sheltered so many generations of the family learned of the danger threatening her nephew it would be impossible to say. She had been skilled for many years in telling which way the wind was blowing; nay, more, in foreseeing from which quarter it would presently blow; so perhaps the two or three casual references to the American girls which she had gleaned from the letters which the Prince dutifully wrote her had been enough to awaken her suspicions. Or, it may be, that some one of the many persons at Weet-sur-Mer who had observed with interest the Prince's comings and goings, deemed it a duty to society to send the duchess a discreet word of warning.

Any one who knew the duchess knew also that a single word would be all-sufficient. Her reputation for worldly astuteness surpassed that of any other old woman in Europe, though it was, perhaps, not altogether deserved. Forty years before, she had been a healthy and happy girl, whose experience of the world had been confined to the family estate near Gemunden. And the estate was a small one, for the family, though of blood the bluest, was very poor.

One tragedy had marked her early girlhood. She was curled up, one evening, in the window-seat at the stairhead watching the moon rise over the great trees of the park, when she heard loud voices in the hall below, and peeping down, saw her father strike another man heavily across the mouth. A sudden silence fell, and she stole away frightened to her bed, where she sobbed herself to sleep. In the gray of the morning, her mother had awakened her, had carried her to a window, and knelt with her there, staring out toward the park and calling upon God to have mercy. Through the streaming mist, there came presently toward them two dim figures, carrying a third—what need to go on? After that, the house became a cloister.

It chanced, one day when she was nearly twenty, that the eye of her cousin Markheim fell upon her. He had never married; he had been to busy with his pleasures. But he had arrived at an age when it was necessary to think of an heir; at an age, too, when the uneasy conciousness began to grow within him that if he desired an heir, there was no time to be lost. So he looked at his blooming cousin, noting the evidences of vigorous health which glowed in eye and lip and check. He knew that the girl would have no dot, but he had reached a place where he was perfectly aware that if he wanted youth and beauty, he must take them unadorned. So he made up his mind at once, and in due time the marriage was arranged.

In pity, we will not dwell upon it. Those who saw the bride's face as she entered the carriage with her husband will never forget the expression of horror, disgust, and abject fear. A year later, the desired heir arrived, a microcephalous idiot, to whom a merciful providence allowed but eighteen months of life; and in due time, the august Prince himself was gathered to his fathers.

During her period of martyrdom, the duchess had pressed her cross to her bosom with the religious enthusiasm of a devotee hugging his barbed instrument of torture. The consciousness that she was suffering for her family's sake as became a daughter of the Caesars was the only thing which enabled her to endure her shame and degradation. She dooned her widow's weeds with such depth of thankfulness as few mortals know, and settled herself to the enjoyment of her position.

She found it on the whole a good position, unassailable, with many desirable perquisites. She decided, no doubt, that life owed her such tremendous arrears of happiness that she could never hope to collect them except by devoting her whole time to it; and devote her whole time to it she did, in good earnest. The years, in their passage, erased certain lines from her face and restored the curves to her figure—indeed, it came to be much more than a restoration!—but they could not restore the color to her hair nor the lightness to her heart. She looked at mankind from a cynical altitude of worldly wisdom; her wit grew keen and swift as d'Artagnan's rapier; her bon-mots had a way of passing into proverbs, or of being stolen by more distinguished contemporaries. She took her revenge upon society as completely as she could, yet without bitterness. Indeed, it is probable that, could she have ordered her life anew, she woud not have ordered it differently.

Such, then was the Dowager Duchess of Markheim, as she sat gazing thoughtfully from her window, pondering the situation. She was fully alive to the fact that American girls are always a menace o the peace of noble families; besides, she was not at all satisfied with the progress or, rather, lack of progress—which the Prince had made in the delicate negotiation entrusted to his hands. In a word, she decided that, from every point of view, it were wise for her to be herself upon the scene—and so much nearer her beloved Ostend! Therefore, being of that superior order of woman who never has to make up her mind but once, she forthwith gave orders for the departure.

"I shall need an apartment of at least five rooms, not higher than the second floor," announced the duchess.

"If Madame la Duchesse had only notified us of t'is honour!" protested Pelletan, with upraised hands. "I swear t'at I haff not'ing—not'ing—not one single apartment wort'y off madame—not efen one leetle room up under t'e gutters."

"Nonsense!" she interrupted, vigorously. "I have heard all that a hundred times at least. Which apartment has my nephew?"

"Madame's nephew?"

"Certainly, imbecile! Monsieur le Prince de Markeid."

"Oh," cried Pelletan. "Monsieur le Prince hass apartment B de luxe."

"And so has twice as much room as he needs, of course. Well, take my luggage up there, wherever it is. At my age, one is beyond the reach of scandal, even at a Dutch bathing-resort. Where is Monsieur le Prince?"

"Monsieur le Prince iss taking t'e promenade," explained Pelletan.

"Very well; I have my toilette to make. When he returns, send him up to me at once. Here, boy, apartment B," and followed by her maid, she started up the stair, leaving Monsieur Pelletan staring, open-mouthed.

"But t'ere iss a lift, madame!" he cried, regaining his breath.

"A lift!" retorted the duchess. "At my age! What is the man thinking of! En avant, boy!" and she went on up the stair.

The watches of the night had not brought that final solution of the problem which Susie Rushford had hoped for, and she did not know whether to be glad or sorry when she found the Prince at the stairfoot awaiting her. There could be no doubt that he was wholly, undividedly glad—one glance at his face told her that—and he greeted her in a way that sent a little thrill to her heart. After all, she told herself, perhaps she would better let things drift; one more day could make no difference. And there was no reason why she should take the affair more seriously than did the principal person concerned in it.

Outside the door, as usual, was the invalid chair; and while Lord Vernon did not forget to say good morning, it was not upon her his eyes rested. Nell, at least, was perplexed by no problems, and was unaffectedly gay. Susie almost envied her; and yet problems were interesting, too.

And then there was Collins. As she acknowledged his bow, she was struck anew with the concentrated secretiveness of his appearance. There was a new look in his eyes this morning, a look as though he were watching her, and it made her vaguely uneasy. But the feeling passed as they turned eastward along the promenade, and she soon forgot all about him, for—quite exceptionally—her companion was talking of himself.

"I do not want that you should exaggerate the importance of this little dispute," he was saying. "Seen thus close at hand, it looms rather large; but it really matters very little to the great world. Even I can get far enough away from it to see that."

"And yet," rejoined Susie, "I have heard it said that it might possibly endanger the peace of Europe."

The Prince smiled at the words as at an old acquaintance.

"The peace of Europe," he said, "is a kind of bugaboo which diplomats use to frighten each other with, and even to frighten themselves with. I do not believe that the peace of Europe hangs on any such delicate balance as they pretend. Though, of course," he added, more gravely, "there are certain circumstances under which this question of the succession might become very unpleasant to the Powers."

"Ah!" breathed Susie, who had been listening eagerly. "You admit that, then?"

"Admit it? Certainly—why not? But, intrinsically, it amounts to little. So it is with us Markelds—our lineage is as long as that of any house in Europe, and we hold our heads very high, but we are really of not much importance. We keep up a certain state, we live in a castle, if you will; but we really do nothing worth while, principally, I suppose, because we are so poor."

"So poor?" echoed Susie, open-eyed.

"You are thinking of the apartment de luxe," said the Prince, with a smile; "of the special train. But, do you not see, those are the very things which make me poor. I have no use for seven rooms; in the special train, I can occupy but a single seat. All the rest is waste, which does me no good—rather the reverse, indeed, since it serves to impress people with an exaggerated idea of my importance and so pave the way for fresh extravagances. I did not mean that I am poor absolutely; I do not suppose that I shall ever want for food and clothing and a place to sleep. It is only as a Prince that I am poor—that we Markelds are all poor."

"But one would think there were many things worth while which a man in your position could do," said Susie, earnestly, "even if you aren't rich."

"Oh," he explained, looking down at her with a laugh in his eyes. "I would not have you think that I am always wholly idle. I am colonel of a dragoon regiment, and I inspect it, sometimes, or ride in front of it at a general review. I hunt. I attend various functions of the court. I even sometimes act as the representative of my house, as I am doing now."

"None of which," said Susie, "except perhaps the last, is in the least worth while."

"I agree with you, unreservedly," he assented; "but it is about what most men in my position do."

"So I have heard," said Sue, "but I never really believed it. I thought it an invention of the society reporters."

"It is true, nevertheless. You see there is no incentive, for most of us, to do anything else. Of course, we cannot work, nor engage in trade."

"I don't admit the 'of course.' But leaving that aside for the moment, aren't there any exceptions?"

"Yes—a few at whom the rest of us look rather askance. You see, there is the tradition to be maintained."

"The tradition?"

"Of royalty—of divine right. We must do nothing to spoil the tradition, or weaken it, or our people may find out that we are not really necessary, after all, just as the Americans have done."

Susie glanced at him to see if he was in earnest; but he appeared to be entirely so.

"Do the exceptions mind being looked askance at?" she questioned.

"No, I do not think they mind in the least. Most of them are too busy to pay any heed to what other people are thinking about them. Besides, the cause of the exception is usually a woman, who takes up most of the exception's leisure time."

"I'm afraid I don't quite understand."

"Let me explain. You see, when one of us marries a woman of his own class—'Prinzessen Comtessen, Serene English Altessen,' as Svengali called them—he usually gets a partner more—ah—hidebound, I think you call it—than himself—a greater stickler for precedent and tradition and position and etiquette and elegant leisure, and all that sort of thing. Whatever liberal ideas he may have had, he finds he must abandon or, at least, suppress, if there is to be peace between his wife and him. It is only those who are so fortunate as to meet and win exactly the right woman out of their class who get the incentive. You understand, now?"

"Yes," said Susie, with a queer catch in her voice. "Yes, I think I do."

"So," he added, with a little bitter laugh, "you see why we others look askance at these exceptions. In the first place they have preferred to step down out of their rank for a wife—that deals a blow at the tradition, and every blow weakens it; in the second place, they have left some noble lady husbandless, for your noble ladies seldom so far forget their rank as to marry out of it, though that may be because the men never permit them to—again an injury to us as a class; and, finally, they are mixing with the world, they are meeting other men face to face, as equals, they are claiming no merit because of birth, no authority because of rank; they are, perhaps, even working with their hands. Whereas our business is to keep aloof from the world, to maintain a barrier of caste between ourselves and other men, for they must not suspect that we are as imperfect as they—that we have the same appetites and passions, the same refects and meannesses. Our business is to rule over them, to require their obedience because God so wills it. We tremble when we see the apostates cast aside their rank and descend into the world's arena, for we fear that the people finding at close view only human, may come at last to believe that the right by which we rule is not, after all, divine. Then they will tear down the barrier of caste, strip us of the privileges of rank, and proclaim the absurdity that all men are equal. And I might add, we are jealous of the exceptions, because they are happy. Marriages of state are seldom love matches; the kind which furnish the incentives are always so."

To all of which Susie had listened with bated breath, only glancing up once or twice to study her companion's face. It was a lifting of the curtain, a revelation of the heart, which left her deeply moved.

"You don't seem to care for the tradition," she said, at last.

"Oh, yes, I do; it would be untrue to pretend otherwise. Only, it has occured to me quite recently that merely to inherit a position is not quite enough. A man should try to deserve it."

"And you're going to try," asked Susie, looking at him with something very like adoration in her eyes.

"I am going to try—yes," he answered. "But I shall need help—I am afraid I should not make a success of it by myself."

And then he fell silent, for they had reached the end of the promenade, where the others had joined them.

(To be continued.)

Bird Farm of a Detroit Man

AN example of what may be done in bird culture in a large way is being furnished in Michigan, near the village of Dearborn, which is an outpost of Detroit. Here 2,800 acres of land have been given up to bird attraction and protection.

So far as we know, says the Craftsman, it is the most important work of its kind that has been undertaken in this country and also the first large individual effort in the conservation of our native wild life.

Bird farming on the Dearborn estate of Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, is carried on in a big way. It has included the use of several hundred bird boxes, set up after a new plan and a careful systematic winter feeding campaign with automatic feeding devices and shelter stations. Not the least item in the work has been a war on predatory animals.

There is also a planting plan to add to the already abundant growth of the farm such tree and shrub life as is most likely to increase the bird capacity of the farm acreage. The greater part of the farm is under bird cultivation exclusively. It is practically self-supporting, providing food for the stock and the numerous employes.

The location is a fortunate one on both sides of the Rouge river, along which it extends for about three miles. Several little rills supply water near the bird haunts in the seasons when it is most needed, when the nestlings cannot go for it themselves and their parents have to make many trips. To meet this same need water has been carried by ditch through an extensive area of woods. Mr. Ford is now considering the matter of windmills to pump water into several sections of the farm further from a natural supply of water so that they may be reclaimed for the birds.

One of the very small tributaries of the Rouge was dammed to enlarge a marshy district, which lies in the centre of a large irregular triangle of low land bounded by two high roads and a high piece of heavy timberland. The existing wet area in the big triangle is already the home of mallards, rails and bittern, all of which nest there.

The dam will make a marsh of probably 30 acres. Wild rice and wild celery will be planted and every effort made to induce marsh and water loving birds to breed there. One experiment proposed is the placing of barreis in the marsh with nesting material all ready for ducks.

The farm has rolling meadows, high, sunny slopes, shady hollows, thick copses and several small patches of woods besides the larger wooded areas. There is a wide green ribbon of meadow on a circling slope toward the river, to which, on May days, the bobolinks come from miles around.

Quail already are abundant at the farm, and though this is an open season once more in Michigan the birds are being carefully guarded. Mr. Ford offers liberal prices for live birds, particularly grouse and bobwhites. He is not considering the matter of imported game birds, as he seems to be convinced that it is better to devote himself to native species.

Except the rather elaborate martin boxes, with their numerous apartments, the bird houses are very simple affairs, such as almost any boy might make. The roof board, sloping to the front, hangs well over the edge of the box, protecting the little circular doorway which is high up under these eaves. There is no perch at the opening. The English sparrow has a marked preference for the perch; therefore it is omitted. Bluebirds and wrens are using the boxes minus perches.

At first most of the boxes were set in trees. This year they were removed to posts, being lifted above the post by a two-foot length of band iron which is bolted at the ends to box and post. There are two objects in the general use of the band iron. The cat will find it hard to reach the nest inside and the English sparrow, according to a generally accepted belief, will not like it because the box sways on its support even in a gentle breeze. In making most of the boxes old weathered boards rather than new have been used, the birds being shy about obviously new environment.

There are about 500 of these boxes among the trees in the vicinity of the bungalow, along the hedge above the bobolink meadow, where the abundant Juneberries attract many birds, in high wooded places and in dells along the river; a few are in the thick of the woods and a very few—nearly all unused—in open spaces. A great many are set up on the edges of wooded places and along such fences as are supplemented by rank shrub growth.

Automatic feeding boxes used are of more elaborate construction. The type designed by Mr. Ford is about 30 inches square and 16 inches high under the eaves. The bottom is open except for the platform on which the birds stand to feed. The sides are of clear glass. Inside, emptying on the platform, is a hopper holding about half a bushel of seed. This is filled from a hinged section of the roof. The grain rolls out on the feeding platform as rapidly as it is eaten.

Only the bottom of the box being open, the birds enter there and are protected from wind and storm by the glass sides, through which the food may be seen from the outside. Seed used in feeding the birds is a mixture of wheat, millet, hemp and sunflower. With this oatmeal is used. The sunflower seed and the hemp are highly prized by many birds. In fact hemp appears to be so satisfactory a food that the planting plan of the farm now includes a crop of wild hemp.

Fastened to the post which supports the feeding device is a pocket of metal mesh containing suet. This is in lieu of insect life for birds which depend largely upon animal diet for which nature makes small provision in winter. The suet is placed in the mesh so that large birds and four-footed animals cannot carry away large pieces. Beef fat and pork rinds are hung up elsewhere, this kind of food not being confined to the feeding box post as a dispensary. Salt pork rinds have a restricted value, salt meat not being popular.

Already there are probably ten times as many birds to the acre on the farm as anywhere else in the state—or anywhere on an acreage possessing like natural advantages. Jefferson Butler, president of the Michigan Audubon society, in a two-hour walk at the farm on the morning of February 22, 1911, (the day cold, partly cloudy and snow on the ground) saw and recorded in his diary the following: Eighteen bluebirds, 5 robins, 3 mourning doves, 3 quail, 43 tree sparrows, 2 rusty blackbirds, 18 bronzed grackles, 2 song sparrows, 5 downy woodpeckers, 6 white breasted nuthatches, 3 flickers, 2 American sparrow hawks, 3 marsh hawks, 1 red shouldered hawk, 3 chickadees, 12 crows.

About the middle of October Mr. Butler estimated that among the birds frequenting the feeding stations near the bungalow in greatest number there were fully 100 myrtle warblers, fully as many song sparrows, 150 juncos, 200 goldfinches, 100 tree sparrows, half as many vesper sparrows and 40 white throated and white crowned. These are among the most valued friends of the farmers—those who have fully learned the birds' habits as weed destroyers. There were some field sparrows, numerous chickadees, white breasted nuthatches and downy woodpeckers.

In the way of a further census Mr. Butler estimates that at this same season there were along the Rouge on the farm fully 200 bronzed grackles, 300 meadow larks in the fields, half as many bluebirds and 50 jays—these besides robins, towhees, red wing blackbirds, mourning doves, flickers and quail.

One of the most attractive spots on the farm is a beautifully wooded little glen just at a bend in the river. Along this little glen, in a space scarcely 200 feet long and 30 feet wide, 23 pairs of birds were found nesting this year, among them these 15 species: Brown thrasher, catbird, goldfinch, song sparrow, field sparrow, chipping sparrow, mourning dove, yellow billed cuckoo, towhee, yellow warbler, Wilson's thrush or veery, wood thrush, robin, cedar waxwing, American redstart. The variety is due partly to the fact that the upper slope of the wooded glen verges on open land or partly open. Here grow many thorn apple bushes, which make the best nesting sites because of the close, barbed twigs.

Just through the orchard and down a slope among stubs and thick shrubs, with wet marsh grown spots here and there, the American bittern has his home and feeds on frogs and crayfish, making his presence known now and then with his pumping or stake-driving noises. Least bittern, too, made their nests near by, but their eggs were washed out by a sudden flood of the stream. The black crowned night heron dwells there, and the little blue heron. The spotted sandpiper nests in the locality and the kingfishers have their tunnelled homes in the banks, where they are high. The solitary sandpipers must have nested there, too, because they were seen all through the nesting season, but their abode could not be discovered. A little further, on some damp bottomland, overgrown with willows and scrubby bushes, the Maryland yellow throat nested this year and numerous warblers were there. Over in the big woods, where there are some giant oaks, Mr. Ford found that the great blue heron had chosen one of the largest of them all, an oak which must be more than 200 years old, in which to construct its huge rough nest of brush.

Nocturnes.

Now cometh night, soft-slippered maid of sleep,
Tiptoeing down the dwindling paths of day,
Bearing above her garb demure and gray
The tiny candles given to her keep.
Eve's curtain drawn, she lifts her arms to sweep
The cloud of hair from her pale brow away.
She threads her needle with a silver ray
Of moonlight, and with stitches long and deep
She mends the robe of slumber. Fold on fold,
She wraps it round her mistress and her queen,
Till hush and dark her regal dream emprize.
Softly the little maid slips out to hold
With random Morpheus tryst upon the green,
And close, upon his breast, her weary eyes.

It is the hour when clock and chanticleer,
Midnight forgotten, oversleeps the dawn;
When dewdrops stay the flanks of hare and fawn,
And roses blink at morning through a tear.
It is the hour when hush and vigil clear
The world of every music. So, I pawn
One hour of dreams to watch the coming on
Of sunrise to your dreams of morning, dear.
The first deep sighs, like lilies in your breast,
Stir from the snow, and watch your covered eyes
Awake to purple violets from the dew;
To feel your arms, the ferns of spring's unrest,
Reach up unto the call of golden skies,
And draw the smile of heaven down to you.

—Aloysis Coll in Columbian.

Adam Left a Will

SOME of the most ancient wills in the world are described by Virgil M. Harris in a book recently published by Little, Brown & Co. According to Mr. Harris, the Mussulman claims that Adam himself left a will and that seventy legions of angels brought him paper and pens all the way from Paradise and that the Archangel Gabriel set his seal to the document.

It is also recorded that Noah left a will. He divided the known world at that time into three parts and left one to each of his sons.

There exists a curious and ancient testament of Job discovered and published by Cardinal Mai in 1839. In it Job's faithful wife, when reduced to the lowest depts of poverty, is represented as having sold her hair to procure bread for her husband.

Jacob, the third of the Hebrew patriarchs, died in Egypt at the age of 147, but was buried by his sons in the Cave of Machpelah at Hebron, in Palestine, a traditional burial place of the prophets and other Biblical characters of their time.

It can be stated that the very earliest reference to an actual testamentary disposition is by the words of this patriarch:

And Israel said unto Joseph: Behold, I die, but God shall be with you and bring you again unto the lands of your fathers.

Moreover, I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

And Jacob called unto his sons and said: Gather yourselves together that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

In the forty-eighth and forty-ninth chapters of Genesis are these words of the dying patriarch, and here is found not only the disposition of a "portion" to Joseph but the character of each son is shown, the virtue or fault of each is described, to each a symbolic emblem is assigned and to each a future is prophesied. Here is a will, in fact and in prophecy.

Homer refers to the will of Telemachus in favor of Piræus, to whom are bequeathed all the presents that had been made to Talemachus by Menelaus, lest they fall into the hands of his enemies; but he adds, "In case I should slay them and survive, you are then to restore them to me in my palace, a task as joyous to you to accomplish as to myself to profit by."

William Matthew Flinders Petrie, the English Egyptologist, unearthed not many years ago at Kahun a will which was 4,500 years old. There seems no reason to question either the authenticity or antiquity of the document. The will therefore antedates all other known written wills by nearly 2,000 years.

CITY OF THE DIAMOND

WITH the exception of the few stones cut in Antwerp all the rough diamonds of the world are cut in Amsterdam. There the diamond cutting business is carried on in between 70 and 80 establishments which give employment to 12,000 cutters.

The first cutting of a diamond was accomplished 440 years ago. The ancients knew nothing of the hidden beauty of the stone called by Seneca "the sage whose impassability nothing can conquer." But even in the rough the diamond won the favor of princes, and very gradually experiments revealed some of its fires. Until the 14th century enamelled buttons were the chief articles of jewelry.

In the beginning of the 14th century, when the price of enamels fell so low as to bring the decorated buttons within the reach of all purses, enamelling lost the favor of the fine world and buttons of gold and silver ornamented with pearls, diamonds and colored stones took the place of the enamels. The finest of the stones then known was a diamond—a formless mass the size of a pigeon's egg, a gem worn on great occasions by the king of Portugal.

In the year 1470, when Bruges was a residence city, the court lived a life of extravagant luxury. Men and women went about in garments stiff with gold and silver ornaments and sewed over wtih pearls and precious stones. But the stones were uncut and shapeless. Charles, son of the Duke of Normandy, owned a great diamond, with which he amused himself by exhibiting to his "chaperon," but as he declared its virtues he bewailed its shape and its lack of light.

At that time one of the important jewel merchants of Bruges was served by a clerk who was a native of Flanders—a young man named Louis de Berquem, who was deep in hopeless love of his master's daughter. Young Berquem was on the verge of despair, when one night as he was hanging up his apron and preparing to go home to his attic he saw his master bending above his bench groaning at the uselessness of his labor. When De Berquem asked "Can I do something for you before I go?" the master sneered:

"Yes, bring me a tool that will cut these accursed stones! I will give a fortune to the man that does it!"

From that hour the boy thought of nothing but to find means of conquering the hardness of the diamond. All day he did the bidding of his master; all night he sat at a rough bench in his attic trying in vain to make some impression on a stone stolen from the workroom. One night he fell asleep at his bench and dreamed that an angel said to him: "Iron is the master cutter; steel is iron purified. Take the file, get powder; take thy steel and powder it, then cut!"

Berquem awoke. He fixed two diamonds in a vise, filed like mad, and collected the fallen dust. That done he made a set of little wheels and with wheels well powdered with diamond dust set to work to win a fortune. Some days later he stood before his master had in his outstretched palm lay a brilliant whose facets gleamed with light. History states that Berquem kept the secret of his invention until he won his fortune and his bride. His first customer was Charles the Bold, whose great rough diamond was the first royal jewel cut.

HARMLESS ANAESTHETICS

THERE are few, if any, branches of the healing art which are today more important in regard to public health than that concerned with the administration of anaesthetic drugs. The ever-increasing scope of modern surgery has resulted in a corresponding growth in the work of those whose special duty it is to abolish pain during operations, so much so that every large hospital nowadays finds it necessary to have not only a staff of expert anaesthetists who visit it daily, but one or more resident officers specially appointed for a like purpose.

Of course, the increasing attention that is now given to the care of the mouth, which demands the removal of every decayed tooth that cannot be preserved, is responsible for a considerable number of the anaesthetic administrations which occur at the hospitals every week. Under such circumstances, the comparatively mild anaesthetic substance known familiarly as "gas" is used, but apart from this there is a steady increase to be noted in the recorded administrations of powerful drugs such as chloroform and ether.

Yet it is well known that the production of anaesthesia by strong compounds is still attended with some danger, the progress of the anaesthetist's art not having so far achieved the ideal of absolute safety. True, it is at the present time that for every unfortunate fatality that occurs, many thousands of successful cases are recorded, and that even of the "accidents" a considerable proportion have been due as much to the feeble condition of the patient or the shock of the operation as to the drug used.

Still, there is just sufficient margin of uncertainty to make persons anxious about taking an anaesthetic, and so at times preventing them from receiving the benefits of modern operative skill even when urgently needed, and it is this margin which a band of keen investigators is endeavoring to abolish.

In the absence of serious constitutional disease, there is probably less danger for the average individual who takes an anaesthetic than there is when he crosses a busy street. The difference is that in crossing a street, one takes full personal responsibility for getting safely to the other side, but in undergoing a period of induced unconsciousness, accompanied by even a slight risk, the responsibility has to be transferred to someone else.

Those specialists who are concerned with the development of anaesthetics will not be satisfied until they can say to a patient confronted with a serious operation, "We can guarantee you freedom from all risk due to the anaesthetic." It may be many years before such an ideal is reached, but certainly the rapid progress of this branch during recent years seems to point to the fact that it will be reached, and probably within the experience of this generation.

In England, considerable impetus has been given to the development of scientific anaesthesia by a committee appointed by the British Medical Association, which from time to time reports on the results of its inquiries and experiments.

The Strange Case of Eleanor Cuyler

BY KINGSLAND CROSBY

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Finally Wotsirb spoke, his sharp tones shattering the damp silence of early dawn.

"Captain Thompson, how much time can we get for this band of kidnappers under the laws of New York?"

"Twenty-five years at hard labour, sir."

"I guess we can do better than that in Pennsylvania—eh, Bailey?"

"Life-imprisonment, considering all the counts," the Pittsburg detective replied.

"I have something in mind that would be better yet," Wotsirb said, after a pause. "It would be easy, wouldn't it, to take these crooks across the border into Maryland and 'frame-up' a case there?"

"Sure thing!" Bailey promptly responded. "We can slide into Baltimore with 'em on a train, and turn them over to the police with no trouble at all."

"Fact is," Captain Thompson interrupted with unconcealed glee, "it's my own impression that we followed them out of Pennsylvania and put the nippers on 'em while the train was in Maryland territory."

"The main beauty of this plan," Wotsirb explained, turning to Barrett, "is that under the laws of Maryland the crime of kidnapping calls for the death-penalty."

As he heard this the younger man with black beard and goggles uttered a gasp, swayed, and sank to the ground.

His heavily-built companion looked down at him contemptuously.

The woman cursed.

"Let him lie there a moment," Wotsirb commanded, "the soft-boned little swine! And take the bracelets off His Reverence. Bring him nearer—it's not very light here, yet, and I want a good look at him . . . . By the way," he added, turning to Captain Bailey, "did you find anything on them?"

"Yessir. Both men had guns, and this fat buck had a blackjack also. Here it is," he concluded, holding up the weapon.

"That's what made the lump on the back of your head," Wotsirb remarked to Barrett. "If you want him to know how it feels, you can batter him up with it—we won't interfere."

The Bostonian shook his head, disgusted at the suggestion.

"Of course I knew you wouldn't," Wotsirb hastened to add, "but as a matter of professional etiquette, I was bound to give you the opportunity . . . . Well, your reverence, this is a pretty mixup you've got into, isn't it?"

The fat man glared at Wotsirb, but made no other response.

"I didn't expect to see you here, honestly, I didn't. Had no idea it was you doing this job until ten minutes ago when these gentlemen brought you out of the woods. . . . Let's see; last time I saw you was in Paris—dy'e remember? You had a nice, easy berth then, keeping an ex-president from South America—or was it Central America?—from being assassinated? And to think that a man of your experience would be fool enough to undertake this crazy job! Really, Beretsin, I'm ashamed of your lack of judgment. . . .

"Before I forget it, who's your little friend there, that fainted a while ago? He's coming around all right, now. Here, one of you men, snatch off that black beard—I want to see what he really looks like. . . . To be sure! If it isn't the gentleman who gave me such a nice drive into Titusville!"

The slender man sprang up with an angry exclamation on his lips. It turned to a cry of pain when a detective standing near swiftly gripped him by the throat, shaking him as a terrier would shake a rat.

"Easy, easy," said Wotsirb. "None of them is to be done up—just yet."

He paused and inspected the prisoners before addressing them directly, which he did a moment afterward in quiet, conversational tones.

"Now, you three listen carefully for I've got something to say to you. . . . It would be the easiest thing in the world for me to run you over the border into Maryland, and convict you of kidnapping Miss Cuyler. Personally, I should enjoy the sight of all three of you dangling on the end of a rope. But that would mean a lot of trouble and expense to the state. And honestly, I don't think such vermin as you are worth a single dollar of taxpayers' money.

"Taking everything into consideration, I have decided to give you a choice in the matter. Now, of course, I have no authority to ship you out of the country. I admit that. But I'll leave the whole thing with you. If you want to go back to France on the first steamer, well and good. If you want to go to Maryland on the first train, and be convicted and hanged, it's all the same to me. Take your choice. Only remember, that if you go back to Paris you'll have to stay there. I will at once write the bureau a full statement of the case, and if you ever attempt to cross the frontier you will be picked up on sight. The international police, you know, has a long, long arm and a grip that never relaxes. . . . Now, my dear Beretsin," Wotsirb softly concluded with the kindliest of smiles, "which will you do—go to Paris or go to the gallows?"

The prisoner grunted one word.

"Paris."

Then the chief consultant of the federal secret service turned to his assistants.

"Captain Bailey," he said, in sharp, crisp tones, "you are relieved of duty and will return to your office. Captain Thompson and his men will take the prisoners to New York on the train leaving Titusville at noon.

"From New York, Thompson, you will sail by the first steamer, and deliver these crooks at the Paris headquarters as soon as you can get there—but merely for a line-up and Bertillon measurements. I will write the bureau today.

"It is light enough to travel now, and my party will be going past here very soon in a wagon. I don't want them to see any of you. Take your prisoners back into the woods and stay there until we are gone."

Again he ceased speaking, and glanced at his watch. Then he remarked, reflectively:

"It's just as well this woman's ankle is badly sprained—she wont' try to get away. If the others make a break you can shoot them without any trouble. . . .

"Now, one last order for all of you. Not a word of this case to anyone—this is Washington business."

He gave a gesture of dismissal and watched them as they went back into the woods.

When they had finally disappeared he turned to the man by his side. "Come on, Doctor Barrett! We must go back to the house and get ready to start. That wagon ougth to be here any moment now. It's half-past four, and pretty nearly sunrise."

XXV.

Mortimer Cuyler entered his bankink house shortly before 8 o'clock that Saturday morning. He was one of a very few in the Wall Street district who clung tenaciously to the old-fashioned habit of starting business early in the day, and frequently was at his desk long before his partners and clerks arrived.

Today he appeared cheerful, almost jubilent. He had routed his enemies. Foreign financiers had ceased their warfare. The anthracite strike was settled. Wall Street had responded to restored business confidence, and his prestige was greater than ever.

Cuyler stepped from his cab full of energy, every line of his being expressive of alertness, decision, command. For the first time since July 18—the day Mrs. Hazard had telephoned him about Eleanor's unaccountable absence—he had slept throughout the night; and this morning he marveled that he should feel so little anxiety about his daughter. To be sure, he had received Winthrop's telegram of two nights previous saying that Eleanor's locket had been found at Corry, and as the message had been sent from Poughkeepsie he reasoned that the painter was then on his way to the Pennsylvania town. This information, in a measure, verified Wotsirb's advices from Titusville. Probably that was responsible for the spirit of hopefulness that had taken the place of his inward despair.

At any rate he was profoundly thankful that things looked better.

As the banker swung into his private office, his eyes bright, his step firm, Johnson followed immediately, and handed him a telegram which had just been delivered. Cuyler tore open the yellow envelope, marked "Personal: Rush," and read the message once, twice, thrice; to make sure of its import. Then, handing it to Johnson, he turned without a word, and walked over to the nearest window.

The telegram was as follows:

Corry, Penna., July 28.
Your instructions carried out. Miss Cuyler leaves Buffalo with me this morning at 9:28, train 4, due Grand Central Station 7:55 tonight.
BRISTOW.

Scarcely had the secretary read it, when an attendant, knocking at the door, brought in another message, the ink of which had scarcely dried.

"Quick Johnson!" said Cuyler, holding out his hand. Another yellow envelope fluttered to the floor. The second telegram read thus:

Corry, Pa., July 28.
Eleanor sends love. Hopes you can meet us at Albany. Train due there 4:05. Somewhat nervous, but nothing serious. Rapidly regaining her strength. Have wired Mrs. Hazard.
WINTHROP.

Cuyler pulled out his watch.

"Sit down at the table for orders," he said quietly.

Johnson whipped notebook and pencil from his pocket.

"Ready, sir," he responded, and the other man commenced to dictate, calmly, but in rapidly spoken sentences.

"I am going up state on the Empire Express probably as far as Utica, to meet my daughter.

"Notify Captain Hasbrouck to proceed at once to Albany with the Norseman, and wait there for me. It is possible that we may get there a little ahead of him.

"Telephone Mrs. Hazard to come to the city at once. You will meet her at the ferry, and take her to Albany by train, also taking a maid for Miss Cuyler. . . . Notify Doctor Northup that it is my urgent wish for him to accompany you and Mrs. Hazard.

"Leave word for Mr. Bloodgood that I am called out of town. He can wire me on board the Empire if necessary up to 12 o'clock."

Again he glanced at his watch.

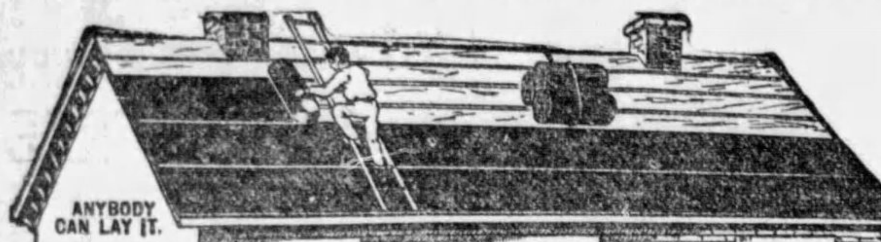
"That's all," he concluded, starting out of his office.

Another minute and he was in a cab racing uptown toward Forty-second street.

The horse's steel-shot hoofs, clicking over the hard paving stones, formed an awkward accompaniment to a hymn-tune Cuyler had sung Sunday after Sunday, almost 40 years previous, in an old white church which stood on a hillside and looked down upon the Vermont hamlet where he had been born. He was a stripling then, and sang in the village choir because another sang there—a slender slip of a girl who later was to become the wife of his youth and Eleanor's mother.

The rosy-cheeked lad long ago had changed into a care-worn, gray-haired man—the most powerful of modern financiers; one of the great figures of the world. For decades he had not thought of that hymn-tune, but as he hurried toward his train today it swelled and surged through his heart.

On sped the cab, skimming by trucks, grazing surface cars, half circling careless pedestrians—past Canal



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street, Fourteenth, Twenty-third, Thirty-fourth; and down the last clear stretch toward the Grand Central station, with five minutes to spare.

Its glistening wheels whirred over the stones, the horse's hoofs clicked rhythmically; and seated within, Mortimer Cuyler hummed over and over again the opening words of that familiar song of thanksgiving:

"Pra-aise God—from whom—all
Bless-ings flow!
Pra-ise Him—all crea-tures
Here—be-low!"

Deep lines graven by half a lifetime of struggle, anxiety, conflict, were gone from his face. It was illumined with joy and gratitude.

XXVI.

Having rounded Cape Cod and later Point Judith, the steam yacht Norseman, like some magnificent white seabird, swept majestically onto the gently heaving waters of Long Island Sound. July and August had merged into September during the weeks in which she had cruised far from her home port to unfamiliar waters of the north where those on board, Mortimer Cuyler, and his daughter, and Mrs. Hazard, had experienced complete change of scene and surroundings. The leisurely voyage, with many an excursion ashore, had done its work. Eleanor had regained health, strength, mental poise, and again was her usual self—active, happy, interested in all around her. The effects of her terrible experience had vanished, and even the memory thereof r turned but at long intervals as a vague, disturbing dream which she could cast aside more and more easily.

Earlier in the evening Cuyler's yacht had slowed down so that a tugboat could bring out to him from Fall river a packet of telegrams and the Boston papers—for once more within the zone of active life the financier must get a grip on affairs of the world. Eleanor and her aunt, sitting together on deck, watched the fussy little tug approach the Norseman, like some overgrown, black waterbug skimming the surface of the sea with a tremendous amount of earnestness. Nearer and nearer it came, when Eleanor, with a little gasp, suddenly rose from the chair.

"What is it, my dear?" Mrs. Hazard asked, looking up in surprise.

"There's someone—someone on the tug, up by the wheelhouse—that I can't quite make out. . . ."

Mrs. Hazard adjusted her glasses.

"Well, I can!" she remarked with emphasis.

A bow-line and a stern-line flew over the rail, and were seized by white-clad sailors as the tug came alongside. The next moment a tall man with broad shoulders sprang from his perch and lightly swung down upon the yacht's deck.

"Good afternoon, Mrs. Hazard," he said, as if such an appearance as his were quite the ordinary thing.

"Doctor Barrett!" she exclaimed, meeting him with outstretched hand.

"And to you, also, Miss Cuyler," he added, his eyes dancing with merriment. "Please, may I go to New York with you? I want to, even if I have to work my passage—provided there's room."

"Indeed you may!" Cuyler responded, appearing on deck as he heard the voices, and taking the younger man's hand with cordial grip. "You're more than welcome."

"Thank you, sir," Barrett replied with a trace of old-fashioned courtesy not displeasing to the other. "The captain of the tug asked me to hand you this," he concluded, holding out a leather pouch.

"Oh, yes, telegrams and newspapers. They can wait until after dinner . . . . But how about you? Have you any luggage?"

"Yes; it's on the tug."

The captain of the little craft alongside was leaning through a window of his wheelhouse, smoking a pipe and examining the trim and polished Norseman with critical, disdainful air. To him Barrett turned and spoke:

"I'll stay with the yacht—send my suit case on board."

"Ay, sir."

As the satchel was passed over the rail the tug drew off, and the Norseman moved forward—noiselessly, without effort, without a quiver. On she swept, mile after mile, while afternoon waned into evening, while the sun set in a glory of gold and rosetints, while its more delicate afterglow melted into the oncoming darkness. And not until then was dinner served—with a leisurely ceremony of which Cuyler privately thought his good sister was a trifle too punctilious. By the time they rose from table and came on deck again, the breeze, which had freshened a little, was impregnated with a bracing, salty flavor. The ladies drew wraps more closely around them, and all four started to pace up and down, up and down, until Cuyler tossed his cigar overboard.

"Now I'll have to get at those telegrams, and leave this beautiful night," he said reluctantly, steadying himself to counteract the gentel swaying of the yacht.

"It's too bad, daddy dear! Can't you let them go until morning?"

"No, I'm afraid not. . . . Well, I will see you again before we turn in."

"I'll go with you," Mrs. Hazard remarked. "I've got to the last chapter, and I really must see what happens to those two young people. Are you sure you're warm enough, Eleanor?"

"Oh, yes, and if I feel chilly we can easily find shelter from the wind."

"Well, don't risk taking cold."

Mrs. Hazard followed her brother to the library below, and Barrett and the girl started once more to pace back and forth, saying little, listening to the swash of t' water, until finally both paused on the afterdeck.

"And how did you know we were to be here this evening?" asked Eleanor, seating herself.

"Very easily," Barrett replied, drawing another chair nearer for himself. "I saw by an early edition of the Boston afternoon papers that the Norseman was due, and that arrangements had been made to send off a tug to her with messages for your father. Some marine reporter probably heard it from one of the tug's crew—and promptly rushed it into print, I'm glad to say."

"Are you?" asked Eleanor.

Barrett sat up and looked at her. "Well—yes. . . . Arent' you?" he demanded.

"It's good of you to take so much trouble. I'm sure my father and my aunt appreciate it."

"And you're glad to see me, yourself—at least a little glad," he went on; "glad enough to serve for the sake of politeness, anyhow—aren't you?"

"Guess," she responded, banteringly, leaning back a little and looking at him with half-closed eyes.

In his turn Barrett leaned, but forward; and looked down at the girl with eyes that were distinctly not half-closed.

"I don't have to guess," he said, in tones that made her heart flutter again—more rapidly than when she had first recognized him on the tug.

Through her mind flashed a little note of thankfulness that he could not see the pink foolishly sweeping from throat to forehead.

"Don't you ever have to guess?" she inquired calmly. "Are you always so sure about everything?"

Memory of that Sunday afternoon at Van Studdiford's summer place came to Barrett's mind, and of Mildred. And of others.

"No, I'm not," he declared honestly. "I'm not sure of everything, Miss Cuyler. But there's one thing I am sure of, absolutely, unquestionably, and I'm going to tell you——"

As he rose from his chair and stepped toward Eleanor she also rose from hers, a trifle precipitately, perhaps.

"I was just about to suggest that we go forward," she interrupted. "We can get a much better view there."

She started on, and he, after momentary hesitation, followed.

Together they stood by the starboard rail watching the wonderful night. On either side the black waters of the sound stretched out and out until lost in marriage with the great, deep sky. Off there they picked up a three-second light which flashed like some great fire-fly. Again they heard the warning note of a bell-buoy, faint at first, then louder, then fainter and fainter as they left it far astern. Once or twice they passed a giant sound steamer in the distance, racing along with passengers and freight, each deck a band of brilliant lights. Then from out the dusky shadows near by would emerge the sail of some ghostly schooner which would vanish again as quietly as it had appeared.

It was not a time or a place for speech. The majesty of the scene, the innumerable stars above, the soft, caressing touch of the moon illumining the black water, impressed them deeply.

Far up in the top gallant forecastle two lookouts pierced the night with vision long trained to such service. Above, on the darkened bridge, stood the first officer and the quartermaster; within easy call of them one or two seamen. Far down below in the engine room were the chief and his assistants, listening, listening to the blended murmur of their perfect mechanism, alert to detect instantly the least discordant note, and ready to remedy it ere accident could happen.

For a long time they paused there, Barrett and Eleanor, in silence. And when he could bear it no longer he spoke—very gently; as she had never heard him speak before—as he had never spoken before.

"You will let me tell you?" he asked, and waited for a moment.

She made no reply.

"I will not, if you forbid me, dear."

Then she caught her breath, and shrank a little—but not from fear. And he stepped toward her and would have taken her in his arms regardless of the others; but just then Cuyler strode through his library, and came on deck.

"Doctor Barrett!" he called, glancing this way and that, before seeing them.

"Yes, Mr. Cuyler, what is it?"

He stepped over to his host.

"Have you read this?" the banker demanded, holding up an afternoon paper.

"No—what is it, sir?"

"It's an article in the last edition," Cuyler replied, "saying that you have organized an archeological expedition at your own expense, to go down into the interior of Mexico, and excavate a lot of old temples in a buried city. It also says," Cuyler continued, "that you are to start within a month, and are to be away from home for at least three years."

"Well," said Barrett, "there's a good deal of truth in it. I have organized the expedition."

Mrs. Hazard had followed her brother to the doorway.

"Now that is something worth while," she remarked in her most impressive manner. "I only wish more of our young men with independent means would undertake such serious and important work."

It seemed to Eleanor that for an instant her heart stopped beating; but the blood of Mortimer Cuyler flowed in her veins.

"Yes, indeed," she added bravely. "We all hope you will do great things down there!"

"Thank you," Barrett said.

"Are you really going to bury yourself for two or three years in that forsaken country?" Cuyler asked incredulously.

"That is my present pl. n, sir."

"Well, I wish you all sorts of success, but I'm sorry we're not to see you for such a long time."

He went back to his reading table, while Eleanor and Barrett resumed their chairs on the after-deck.

"So that was what you were going to tell me when my father interrupted?" she said with a gay little laugh.

"Not exactly, that. . . . I was going to tell you that I should go away . . . unless — unless you want me to stay."

He paused, not knowing how to speak furter. He had never felt so helpless as before this young girl—who suddenly bowed her head and covered her face with her hands.

In an instant he was by her side speaking rapidly, tempestuously—but with an earnestness that overwhelmed her.

It was late when Mrs. Hazard finished the love-story she was reading, and hurriedly bethought herself that it was time she and her niece were retiring. And when they had left the library, Barrett planted himself firmly on his feet directly in front of his host.

"Mr. Cuyler," he said, looking the older man squarely in the eyes, "I wish to marry your daughter. May I?"

Cuyler's glasses slipped from his nose, and for a moment he made no response, but gazed back with mingled amazement and admiration.

"Doctor Barrett," he finally said, deliberately, "possibly there are a few men on earth who would have the audacity to ask me outright for my paintings, or my residence, or my business. . . . I don't know of any one besides yourself who possesses the—eh—self-confidence, to ask me without the slightest preliminary for my only child."

As he spoke Cuyler's mouth set in the steel-like expression dreaded by those who knew him in the world of finance; and his gray eyes fixed themselves upon the younger man with an intensity far from reassuring.

Barrett stood looking steadily at him until he had finished speaking. Then repeated his question, quietly but insistently.

"Mr. Cuyler, may your daughter and I marry?"

A ghost of a smile flickered around the financier's lips. He tried to frown more fiercely—and failed. Then he stood up.

"First of all, does Eleanor wish to marry you?"

"She said so."

"Well, I'm not accustomed to rendering important decisions off-hand. But I'll confess that since we started on this cruise, Mrs. Hazard has suggested the possibility of something of this nature."

"Mrs. Hazard!"

Cuyler nodded. "You see, doctor, these women unconsciously breathe into their very being things allied to the spiritual which men can comprehend only after long, hard, logical study—if ever. And so I was not wholly unprepared, although I never imagined it as being imminent."

"I wish to say, sir, that I have a clean record, and I will help you to investigate it."

"I'm sure of it! You look it. And no man with another kind of record would do what you did to help recover my daughter."

Instinctively he put forth his hand, which Barrett took with hearty grasp for a moment.

"And do you give your consent to our engagement?"

"I do not forbid it—at present. Final decision is reserved until I can talk the matter over with my daughter."

From her room beyond Eleanor came running to her father.

"Oh, daddy, dear!" she exclaimed, laughing and crying at the same time, "you don't have to wait and talk it over!"

There was a moment's silence, suddenly broken by Cuyler, who turned to a telephone and gave one ring, which was answered instantly.

"Captain Hasbrouck," he said, speaking into the transmitter, "a great event has happened this evening; a great and happy event. At sunrise you will dress the yacht with every flag and rag and bit of bunting on board. Serve the ship's company with a regular Christmas dinner tomorrow, and grant extra shore leave to every man you can spare when we reach our anchorage."

"Very good, sir," replied the master of the Norseman.

"That is all, Captain Hasbrouck."

Cuyler turned again to the man and the girl standing side by side.

"Now, young people," he continued, beaming upon them with unaccustomed playfulness, "I am going out in the fresh air for ten minutes—for just ten minutes, mind you!" he laughed. "And then I shall reappear suddenly—without warning—and we will all turn in for what is left of this eventful night."

He closed the door, and walked slowly to the darkened after-deck, where he leaned over the rail, thinking, thinking. Filmy clouds drifted across the moon; the water gurgled and hissed as the yacht cut through it; the stars shone in their silent, mystic majesty.

Then he heard light footsteps coming toward him, and a lithe young creature drew his arms around her as she nestled up close to him.

"What is it?" he asked gently.

"Oh, daddy, dear!" she whispered with awe in her tones; "it's like the creation. . . . This wonderful world is beginning all over again!"

He drew her yet closer, and stroked her hair. And said nothing.

THE END.

Next week The Blade will begin the publication of The Vanity Box, a fascinating story by Alice Stuyvesant. Do not miss the opening chapters.

Life's Mirror.

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have
And the best shall come back to you.

Give love, and love to your heart will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.

Give truth and your gift will be paid in kind;
And honor will honor meet;
And a smile that is sweet will surely find
A smile that is just as sweet.

For life is the mirror of king and slave,
'Tis just what you are and do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best shall come back to you.

—Mary Ainge DeVere (Madeline Bridges.)

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The Farmstead

QUESTIONS FOR ANSWER

The following questions are submitted to readers to answers. We do this in the hope of getting results of actual and successful experience, which will be the most valuable answer possible:

I have a cow that gives bloody milk. If some reader of the Farmstead would give the cause and remedy for this it would be greatly appreciated. —E., St. Louis, Mich.

I would like to have some reader tell me what is the matter with my cow. She is five years old, and a good milker, becoming fresh the latter part of February. But last month I had to dry her up as her milk got thick and stringy. It was the same way last winter while in the summer time she seem to be in good condition. I feed her on hay and corn fodder.—C., Port Alleghany, Pa.

TO KEEP HORSE RADISH

I saw the question in The Blade as to how to keep horse radish during the winter. If the roots are stored in damp ground in the cellar it will keep into the next summer if the roots are dug in the spring and the sprouts kept off.—M., Hooper, Neb.

SILAGE FOR SHEEP

There has been great difference of opinion concerning the value of silage as a sheep feed. In our opinion silage is a good and safe feed for old and young sheep if it is free from mold, and if it is fed carefully. Moreover, the central western farmer will find silage a most beneficial food to tone up the digestive tract of his sheep throughout the long winter season for feeding. Silage acts through the winter much the same as grass does through the summer, keeping a bloom and a thrift on the sheep that is hard to equal without it.

Lambs which are being fattened for market need less silage than the older ewes, and particular pains must be taken to keep only fresh, sweet silage for them. Cattle feeders find good sound silage a very excellent fattening feed in itself, but sheep will not handle as much straight silage as cattle.

Lambs being fed for the market should be slowly started on silage, giving them only a taste during the first week. Gradually then for three more weeks the quantity should be increased until they are getting all they will eat up nearly clean. At the end of the first month if such an increase has been gradually made, cut back on the quantity a little so as to hold them on a feed of silage just a little smaller than they would eat if fed all they wanted.

By so judging their appetites and holding them on just a little less than they would eat the feeder runs less risk of overfeeding on silage. In quantity this would be from one to one and one-half pound a day, or two good, big double handfuls a day.

All these rules can be changed somewhat, of course, yet they will serve as a reliable practical guide, for they are the result of experience. However, any farmer feeding silage should remember:

1. Never feed moldy silage.
2. Never feed silage for a long time that is noticeably sour.
3. Never start in heavily at first.
4. Never feed silage heavy in the grain one day and silage light in the grain the next.
5 Never allow silage to lay in the troughs from one feeding time to the other.
6. Never feed silage that is noticeably frosted.
7. Never leave the salt box empty.
8. Always watch the appetites of the sheep, and if they seem tired of silage cut down on the ration until they grow eager for more.

Silage that is sweet and free from mold is just what the ewes need added to their other food to keep them in splendid shape for suckling their lambs. Silage is a great milk-making food, and fortunate is the farmer with ewes who can give them a light feed of silage twice a day. Silage keeps the sappy appearance of the sheeps' bodies and a luster in the wool that dry feed will seldom do.

When a farmer has had silage for his ewes one winter he hardly knows how to keep them without it. An old ewe will relish two double handfuls of sound, sweet silage at each feed. If it has a fair amount of corn grain in it, so much the better. They can have their silage right up to lambing time, although, if they are in good shape it would be wise to cut down the silage ration about a week before the lambing. Also reduce the supply of silage very much for several days following lambing. A heavy feeding of such a milk-producing food soon after lambing will usually cause caked bag and other troubles.

Sound, sweet ensilage is good for ewes or always if fed rightly. Acid or moldy silage or frosted silage should never be fed.—J. C. Courter, Chicago Weekly Inter-Ocean.

TO "PICKLE" HIDES

Making a rug from a coyote or other small hide is easily done. The only thing required is care, so that the "pickle" is not too concentrated. (The "pickle" is the solution used to treat the hide.) Take a fresh hide and scrape off all meat and fat. Care must be taken so that root hairs are not injured. Then soak in the pickle bath at least a week. Stir the pickle occasionally. Remove from the brine, and, when nearly dry scrape again. Then stretch it, working the smooth surface of the hide over the edge of a board to break the fibre. To make the "pickle" take one gallon of water, a quart of salt and a pint of pulverized alum. Heat this mixture to the boiling point and allow it to cool.

FUMIGATING NURSERY STOCK

A wooden box such as a dry goods box lined with building paper makes a convenient receptacle for fumigating the plants. Calculate the space inside the box in cubic feet and allow 1 oz. of potassium cyanide for each 100 cubic feet. Place the stock loosely in the box and do not fill too full. On top of the plants put an old tin can or earthenware crock, containing 1½ ozs. of sulphuric acid and 2½ ozs. water. Wrap the weighed cyanide in soft paper and when everything is in readiness drop it into the diluted acid, closing the lid immediately. Fumigate from 30 to 40 minutes, after which raise the lid and air out the contents.

The gas generated is extremely poisonous and under no circumstances should it be breathed. It is necessary to use pure cyanide. Lump cyanide often contains as low as 40 per cent actual cyanide, while the pure cyanide contains about 95 per cent. If the pure cyanide is not obtainable make allowance for the weaker material. Cyanide and sulphuric acid can be purchased through any druggist. The strength of the cyanide is usually printed on the container.

For grafts and scions it is well to use less cyanide, say, two-thirds of an ounce to the 100 cubic feet.

Fumigation should be done before buds open. Do not try to fumigate evergreens.

WAGON TIRES

The Ohio station has attempted to settle the long controversy between the advocates of wide tires and the advocates of narrow tires.

The following figures, compiled from exhaustive experiments on roads and farms, prove the beneficial effects of broad tires, both in regard to the draught of wagon and to the rutting of the surface. The narrow tires were 1½ inches wide and the broad tires 6 inches wide. The load in each case was 2,000 pounds, including weight of the wagon.

Dirt Road—Surface dry; free from ruts and dust. Narrow tires required 137.3 pounds to pull the load. Broad tires required 104.8 pounds to pull the load. Difference in favor of broad tires, 32.5 pounds, or 31 per cent.

Clay Roads—Surface soft to depth of 3 or 4 inches. Narrow tires cut a rut 5 or 6 inches deep. Broad tires cut a rut 3½ inches deep. Narrow tires required 340.1 pounds to draw the load. Broad tires required 490.8 pounds to draw the load. Difference in favor of narrow tires, 150.7 pounds, or 44.3 per cent.

Meadows—Timothy sod; moist but firm. Narrow tires cut a rut 3½ inches deep. Broad tire cut a rut ¼ to 1 inch deep, doing no perceptible damage. Narrow tires required 420.8 pounds to draw the load. Broad tires required 305 pounds to draw the load. Difference in favor of broad tires, 115.8 pounds, or 38 per cent.

Grass and stubble 3 inches high, ground soft and spongy. Narrow tire cut rut 5 to 6 inches deep. Broad tire cut rut 1½ to 2 inches deep, doing no damage. Narrow tires required 569.1 pounds to draw the load. Broad tire required 323.6 punds to draw the load. Difference in favor of broad tire 245.5 pounds, or 84 per cent.

It will be seen that in only one test out of four did the narrow tire have the advantage in draft, and that was where the surface of the road was soft, but the subsurface was fairly hard. The narrow tire cut through to this hard surface, while the broad tire remained on top. In all of the tests on meadows and plowed land, the difference was always in favor of broad tire, because on them the load was much more easily drawn and did much less damage to the field.

One trial, four horses pulled the ton load on narrow tires with an average draft of 1,876 pounds. Two horses pulled same load over same road with an average draft of 379.9 pounds, showing that the same load was less difficult for two horses on broad tires than for four horses on narrow tires.

When it is considered that most of the hauling done by farmers is on their farms and not on the roads, this saving in draft is quite an item in the course of a year. When the protection to the field and roadbed is considered, it seems strange that there are so many narrow tired wagons in use.

GRIT FOR POULTRY

When winter comes and the ground freezes, or is covered with snow a good deal of the time, grit must be supplied. Now is the time to lay in this supply of sharp, coarse gravel, so necessary to the hen's welfare. Gravel or grit should be sharp, so as to both cut and grind. Smooth pieces of gravel will not answer the purpose. Gravel dug from a pit will make one of the best grits.

When pounded into small pieces, broken crockery will make excellent grit, also. A little sand mixed with the other grit is helpful, but it will not answer for exclusive use, not being sharp nor coarse enough.

If you prefer, you can buy prepared grit from the dealers in poultry supplies. A good many people do this and a good many other people buy oyster shells with the belief that they are obtaining grit. The hens need some of the oyster shells, as they supply the system with lime and carbonates, but they will not take the place of grit. They are too soft, and digest rather than grind.

Keep well filled grit boxes where the hens can run to them at will during the winter months and you will find that they consume quite a lot of the material in a month's time. Providing the grit in boxes and allowing the hens to help themselves is the best way of feeding it. They will then use as much as is necessary for their health, as they are the best judges of this matter and consequently will not consume more than they require.

If we always knew how much would be needed for the health of the birds, it would be all right to mix the grit with the feed. But since we do not know this, we would best not force grit upon them as we would be doing if we mixed it with feed.

Last winter a friend of mine lost several of his hens from no apparent cause except that he had been feeding them a considerable quantity of grit mixed with the mash.—W. F. Parrish, Chicago Weekly Inter-Ocean.

BROOD SOWS EAT BARLEY

Barley is an excellent feed for brood sows at any time, but preferably should not be fed alone to them. Brood sows, or any other hogs for that matter, do best when they receive a variety of feeds. Feed middlings and oil meal, tankage or peas with the barley to the sows and there will be no harm liable to come to them any more than if corn or oats were fed. While grass is in season, the sows may have barley alone if they are kept on a good grass pasture or on some other green forage crop. Some farmers make a practice of allowing their hogs to harvest the barley crop after it is ripened and thus save the expense of harvesting the barley.

THUMPS IN PIGS

Thumps is a common disease among pigs and is caused by overfeeding and lack of exercise. The disease is easily prevented by careful feeding and seeing that the pigs get plenty of exercise. Unless promptly dealt with when pigs are first seized, the disease is pretty certain to harm them seriously. In quite a number of instances they die. The most prominent indication of thumps is a jerky motion at the flanks in connection with their breathing. The nerves of the diaphragm are affected, hence the trouble is sometimes called spasms of the diaphragm. In some instances there is wheezing. The affected animals soon lose thrift, and even though they recover they are more or less stunted for a good long time, subsequently. Medicines cannot do much if any good for pigs affected with thumps. The best plan is to prevent the disorder, and this can be done by feeding no more than the pigs will eat up clean, and see that they get exercise. In winter pigs are inclined to remain in bed, and in such cases it is well to compel them to exercise by chasing them about with a switch.

PLANTING TREE SEEDS

The seeds vary so remarkably that the methods of caring for them necessarily differ. The catalpa grows close packed in a long pod, in much the same manner as the giant milkweed.

It ripens in September usually, but will remain in place for some time. Some weather exigency either forces the pods open or causes them to drop, and the seed is scattered.

The pods should be picked about the time of ripening, as indicated by the seeds changing color and assuming the rich brown shade which comes with maturity.

They may be picked while the seed is a little green, and if put away in some dry place, like an attic or barn loft, they will fully dry out, and be just as good as if left upon the tree until the pods burst.

After being picked and put away, as they become dry many of the pods will burst. Sometimes the seed is carried over until spring in this way. But we prefer the plan of taking the seed out of the pods when fully dry. It may then be put in a bag and kept in a dry safe place where mice cannot reach it.

The time for planting the seed is the spring, about corn planting time in May. The catalpa naturally starts growth quite late.

It will not do to assume that because the seed ripens in the fall and nature sows her crop then, therefore man should do the same. This is one of the cases where man improves upon nature's method.

When dropped from the tree in the fall only a small percentage of the seed ever germinates. But by intelligent care and planting men are able to grow 90 per cent of it.

The soil for catalpa should be deeply plowed and thoroughly pulverized like a garden bed. Plant in drills, very shallow, and far enough apart so that you can give good culture.

This seed resembles tne parsnip seed—handle and plant it very much as you would the seed of that vegetable.

On the other hand, walnuts, hickory nuts and butternuts should be fall planted. They need the action of frost to crack the shell and permit the growth of the tender sprout from which the future tree must be developed. Usually the best results are gained by planting where the trees are wanted, but it is wise to put two in each place, for a part of the nuts are defective and will fail to grow. Even then you will not get a perfect stand, but you will come nearer that ideal than when you trust to one only.

It is sometimes advised to carry over the nuts by mixing with wet sand and putting out to freeze through the winter. And then as the sprouts begin to show in the spring the good nuts may be removed to the permanent place of growth. This secures a perfect stand. But the handling of the sprouted nuts requires the greatest care or many will be broken.

Box elder and white ash seed should be gathered in October and planted at once. They may be rather thickly strewn in drills 18 inches apart and covered with a half inch of loose soil. They germinate freely, and there is rarely any disappointment in getting a perfect stand.

Those seeds, like the elm and soft maple, which ripen in May or June, belong to the "sooner" class. They are not to be kept, but should be planted as soon as gathered.

STORING TURNIPS

Keeping turnips through the winter does not require an unusual amount of brains. Dig a pit upon high, sloping ground about four feet deep and any width and length; this depends on the amount of turnips to be buried. Pull up the turnips and cut off the tops, but leave the root on; place them in the pit and cover with six inches of straw. On top of this place the dirt which came from the pit, placing it so that it forms a point to throw off the water in rainy weather. Also dig a small trench to carry off the water which may collect at the base. If a small amount is desired at a time, a box with the top and bottom removed can be placed in the top and small quantities removed as desired. I have used this method for the past ten years and have never failed to have perfect turnips for myself, chickens and stock during the winter months.

THE DAIRY SIRE

All our improved breeds of stock are artificial products; the products of environment and man's genius.

It is not the nature of any cow to produce the large quantities of milk the modern dairy cow does, and to keep it up for months; her natural duty is to give sufficient milk to nourish her young for a few months each year.

It was not the original nature for the cattle what we now designate as beef breeds to carry such an enormous amount of flesh; nature intended the formation of flesh solely for the warmth and protection of the body, with no thought of the commercial value of flesh and fat.

Originally, years back, perhaps thousands, all cow kind were of the same type, the same size, and had we known them then, we should have known them only as cattle, just as we know the buffalo, the deer and the elk of today. It was not until man undertook their domestication that the various breeds were formed, and a system of evolution inaugurated, which has brought about the great variety and assortment of breeds.

Type has been the result of feeding, environment and selection for a definite purpose. By the selection of the best milkers and by proper feeding with suitable surroundings, it has been possible to bring to their present high state of development the different breeds of dairy cattle; and, apparently while they are fixed in type and characteristics, there is nothing stable without the ever-guiding hand of man. The power of avatism, that ever-present tendency to some remote ancestral trait, is liable to crop out at any time; and, if animals are left to themselves, retrogression should be fast and furious and the good work of generations of progressive breeders would soon be lost sight of.

There is no breed of animals that will go on improving without the constant assistance and directing mind of man. Thus, admitting that all improvement and productiveness is an artificial condition of tne cow, brought about by years of patient work and study, does it not stand to reason that, in a breed where these traits have been the sole objects of the originators, whose work has been handed down or rather carried on for centuries, by generation after generation of successful breeders, that the tendency to produce animals of a profitable type is much more firmly fixed, and the power to transmit these qualities is greater in the pure bred than in the common or grades.

Also, after all these years of breeding for a purpose, are not animals less liable to reversion and are not the possibilities for a larger per cent of productive animals much greater than among the grades? Therefore, in choosing a sire for your dairy herd, select one with the longest list of producing ancestry in his pedigree. Because an animal is pure bred and registered does not qualify him as a sire; see that he comes of a family that has accomplished things as producers.—G. M. Richards in Chicago Weekly Inter-Ocean.

CABBAGE FOR FOWLS

An Iowa poultryman advises this method for keeping cabbage as a winter feed for fowls: As soon as severe freezing threatens, the cabbage should be pulled up and stored away. We adopt the simple method of burying them in the ground, usually right where they stood. The finest heads are reserved for the table and put to themselves and all the remainder of every degree buried down for the poultry. Covering them is quickly done by throwing out a trench with the plow that will admit three heads side by side; then another layer of two heads wide is placed on top of these with roots turned up in every case. Some straw or grass is then thrown over them and on top of this is a thin layer of earth, of a slope to shed off the rain. Later on a heavier covering of earth may be added. Cabbage thus treated will continue to grow more tender, crisp and sweet and far excels in flavor the dry stored kind. With a range of green rye, a daily feed of cabbage and a warm mash in cold weather mixed with cooked turnips, beets or potatoes, the hens should be in prime condition to make a high egg record.

LIMBERNECK

As treatment, apply cold water to the head and give internally 20 grains of Epsom salts. Keep the bird in a quiet, cool, shady place and remedy the defects in feeding; that is, feed it green food instead of the more heating grains.

There is also a complaint somewhat similar in symptoms to vertigo and which is called "limberneck." A bird so affected is unable to raise its head, which drops either on the breast or falls to one side. Sometimes the head turns almost around, as if the fowl were looking backward. This disease is caused by ptomaine poisoning, which ultimately paralyzes and kills the bird. Ptomaine poison is a poison developing in animal food of all kinds.

I accidentally poisoned a dozen chickens and ducks by mixing in their food some spoiled condensed milk. Some of them died very quickly; others were ill for as long as two days, and I tried everything that I knew of in that time to help them. Poisons work rapidly, and I then had not much experience with that poison. I have since poisoned myself and have made a painstaking study of the subject. Now I would give a dose of castor oil, with ten drops of turpentine in it, following it with a mixture of well beaten egg and olive oil, putting these, in equal parts, in a bottle and shaking well, giving a teaspoonful every two hours after the castor oil has taken effect.

I opened the fowls, to note the effect of the poison, and found the intestines very much contracted, apparently shriveled or dried from fever and spasms. Some of them had streaks of blood, and the liver was dark, but otherwise all other organs appeared healthy.

Limberneck is almost always caused by ptomaine poison; but it possibly may come also from a disorder of the nervous system, the result of indigestion sunstroke or from infestation of worms. The treatment advised is:

Dissolve one teaspoonful of hyposulphate of soda in half a cup of water. Give one teaspoonful of the mixture every two or three hours. Give the bird a small piece of gum asafoetida —about the size of a split pea. Repeat the dose the next day.

The cases of ptomaine poisoning that been brought to my attention have been usually traced to animal food—generally to beef scraps or green ground bone. Beef scraps are usually a most excellent and safe food for the fowls, but in summer time or in damp weather you should examine yours carefully. Buy only a small quantity at a time, as, if you keep them in a damp, moist place, you run a risk of the poison developing in them. Reject any that has a very offensive smell or that has little rolls of a darker color in it, or any lumps. You will find white fine, threadlike streaks in some of the lumps. This is poison. It is well to be careful in this matter.

Avoid all grain that has any mold or mildew in it; also smutty grains. The mildew is a fungoid poison, with almost the same fatality and the same symptoms of ptomaine. I remember at one time there was a fire at some mills in Los Angeles, and afterwards a large quantity of wheat that was half burned was sold as being "plenty good enough for chicken feed." Letters began to come to me thus: "My chickens are dying. Can it be from the chemicals used in putting out the fire?" I asked one of the firemen, who told me that nothing but water had been used. The dampened grain had molded and developed the poison that killed the chickens. The best of grain is none too good for our chickens.

"Prevention is better than cure." In the autumn, and when the nights begin to get cold, there are two other complaints that we must be on the alert to prevent. The first is roup and the second is chickenpox.

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A Poet's Caprices.

Queer stories are told of the mo[st] unusual methods of work and capric[es] of Gerald de Nerval, the French po[et]. He followed inspiration literall[y], scribbled a line upon an omnibu[s], a couplet upon the parapet of Po[nt] Neuf, in taverns, boudoirs and gree[n] rooms. His longest sustained effo[rt] would be ten lines. His manuscri[pt] consisted of such strips held togeth[er] by wafers. Once he entered the garden of the Palais Royal leading [a] lobster on a blue ribbon. His frien[ds] remonstrated. "Why," said de Nerval, "why is a lobster worse than [a] dog or a cat or a gazelle or a lion [or] any other beast that people have fo[l]low them about? I admire lobster[s]; they have the poise, they are seriou[s], they know the secrets of the sea, th[ey] don't bark."

Race Between Clipper Ships.

Army and Navy Journal.

The accuracy of sailing in the palm[y] days of the clipper ships is indicate[d] by the statement that on a 99 day race between five clipper ships in 18[..] three went into port at the end of the voyage on the same tide, the Taepin[g] beating the Ariel by only 12 minute[s] and the Serica by little over 4 hours. The other two ships in this race, t[he] Fiery Cross and the Taitsing, came two days later. The Red Jacket on h[er] first voyage went from Sandy Hook t[o] the Rock light, Liverpool, in 13 days [..] hour, and the fastest British-built cli[p]per, the Melbourne, made when ru[n]ning her easting down 5,100 miles [in] 17 days. We ought never to have lo[st] the position we then held upon th[e] ocean, when Donald McKay and Samuel Hall led the world in the buildi[ng] of fast ships. It is humiliating to thi[nk] of the change that has come over o[ur] mercantile marine since their day.

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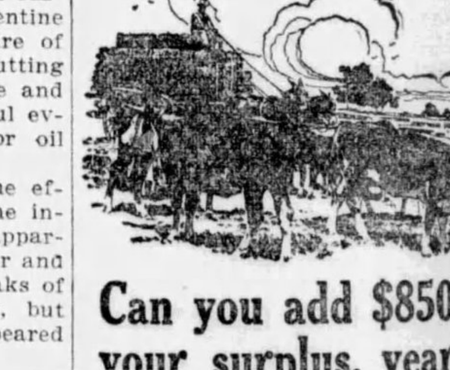

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Australia's Wild Dog

THE dingo or wild dog of Australia. The dingo is to Australia what the wolf is to eastern Europe and the coyote to America. Hunting in packs or alone, he is a constant menace to Australia's chief industry, the breeding of sheep.

Many are the schemes evolved for the wild dog's destruction, but his capture or death is a comparatively rare occurrence when set against his constant depredations. There are dog trappers who spend their whole lives in trying to catch dingos, men who have studied every aspect of their work and who spare no pains and avoid no hardships in a constant warfare with the wile and cunning of the sheep slayer.

Though the dingo is met with from time to time in almost every part of the Australian bush, his principal habitat is the rough range country in the center and north of New South Wales and the deep, dark scrubs of Queensland.

The dog trapper's life is of the loneliest kind. For weeks, perhaps months, he camps in the desolate ranges, setting his traps and watching with ready rifle in the moonlit nights for a chance shot at his enemy. In the bush there is a price on the head of every dingo. In some parts a dingo is worth £10 or even £15 to the man who delivers his scalp to the Pastoral Board or to the squatter.

This is made up by sums contributed among the sheepbreeders and allowed by the district councils, so generally recognized an enemy is the wild dog. With such handsome emoluments to encourage him, the professional dog trapper is not easily daunted, and his patience and perseverence are remarkable. Sometimes he may get as many as three or four dogs in a week, but as a rule if he gets three in three months he is doing very well.

As a rule the dingo confines his murderous attacks to sheep and weakling calves, but in the far out Queensland districts, where large packs travel together, hunger has been known to make them bold, and one hears of them attacking men in lonely camps in the manner of wolves.

The dingo never barks, but his weird howl is a familiar sound in the bush nights and is blood curdling in the extreme and trying to the nerves of the new chum camped alone in the bush for the first time. Owing to his cunning and swiftness in changing quarters the dingo holds his own in central Australia and is likely to do so for many a day to come, even though the price upon his head—already a generous one—should be doubled or trebled.

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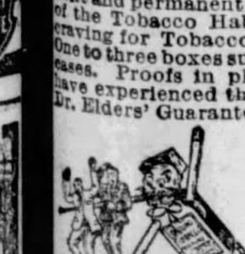
Guaranteed positively to be a harmless, swift and permanent relief from the slavery of the Tobacco Habit. Easy to take. No craving for Tobacco after the first dose. One to three boxes sufficient for all ordinary cases. Proofs in plenty from those who have experienced the wonderful benefits of Dr. Elders' Guaranteed Home Treatment.



They write like this: "Wouldn't take $1000 for what you did for me"; "I never have a hankering for tobacco any more"; "One box of your Tobacco Boon cured me after 20 years habit"; "Used tobacco in all forms for 17 years, three boxes cured me"; "I cannot praise your Tobacco Boon enough. Other Mothers can also cure their sons"; "Used Tobacco for almost 54 years and I cannot express my gratitude to you for putting me in my present condition."

Remember, a legal binding guarantee of results in every case, or money refunded. It will surely pay any one to send for Free Booklet giving full information of Elders' Tobacco Boon. Home Treatment. Address DR. ELDERS' SANITARIUM, Dept. 237 St. Joseph, Mo.

QUESTION BUREAU

RULES—1. Your real name and postoffice address must be on the sheet with the question. Initials will not do. 2. Ask only one question; that is, there may be several questions on the same subject, but no different subject. 3. The editor of the Bureau is not allowed to give the address of any person or firm, nor answer as to the reliability of any person or firm, nor to tell where you can buy anything—nothing in the way of free advertising. 4. We reserve the right to decline to answer any question not of general interest to a majority of our readers. 5. We will not answer any question involving dogma or doctrine, or of Biblical interpretation; no prices of old coins or stamps; no arithmetical or grammatical questions. 6. Don't ask replies by mail. If a question is of general interest to our readers we will reply in print, but never by mail.

THOMAS HOOD

Will you please give a sketch of the life of Thomas Hood?—J. P. S., Belmont, N. Y.

Thomas Hood, the English poet and humorist, was born May 23, 1799, and died May 3, 1845. From 1821 when he became sub-editor of the London Magazine, he devoted himself to a literary life. In 1826 Hood published Whims and Oddities, this being followed by National Tales in prose. There was also a volume of serious poetry which, though well received, did not acquire much popularity. In 1830 he started the Commic Annual, which, during the eight years of its existence, was made the vehicle of many of his most remarkable productions. From 1835 to 1840 Hood lived on the Continent because of failing health. His experience while there furnished material for his "Up the Rhine," a series of imaginative letters. The whimsical cuts inserted in the work, as well as its combination of good sense and humor, made it very popular. When he returned to England Hood undertook the editorship of the New Monthly Magazine, and continued it until 1843. The following year he commenced his last periodical entitled Hood's Magazine. It contains some of his best productions, though several of them were written after his health had completely given way, and while he was propped up by pillows in bed. Hood is unrivalled as a punster, and seems to have been almost an equal master of the comic and pathetic. In the latter style his "Song of the Shirt" is known the world over, and as a burst of poetry and indignation very few works in the English language can compare with it.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS

I would like to know something about the rules and regulations of postal savings banks.—H. K. A., Sentinel, Mo.

When a person goes to open an account in a postal savings bank he first fills out an application which he signs. In case he is unable to write, his mark must be witnessed by a disinterested person. The interest paid by the government on deposits is 2 per cent. Deposits of $1 or more must be made, as nothing less than that amount will be accepted. However, if a person wishes to deposit less than $1 he may buy savings stamps at 10 cents each. When he has nine of these stamps he pastes them on a card which sells for 10 cents and the whole is given to the bank officials and the depositor is credited with $1 on his account. One cannot deposit more than $100 in one month, and may not have over $500 in all to his credit on the books of the bank. When a person's bank account reaches the $500 mark he is privileged to buy government bonds direct from the government which does away with a broker's commission. These bonds pay two and one-half per cent interest and are not taxable. All the money received by the postal authorities from deposits is put in reliable city banks.

Anyone over 10 years of age may open a postal savings account. Married women's accounts cannot be interfered with by their husbands, the women having full control of them. Deposits are only received from individuals, firms not being allowed to open accounts. A depositor must be a patron of the office where the account is opened. No interest is paid on savings remaining only a fraction of a year. A depositor may withdraw his money at every time, and in case of his death the money is paid the estate.

CHARLES T. RUSSELL

Will you please give a sort of biography of Charles T. Russell, the preacher?—E. J., Borden, Ind.

Charles Taze Russell, the author and clergyman, was born in February 16, 1852. In early life he was associated with his father, who was a merchant, and thus was hindered from completing a college course; but his studies were continued under private tutors with remarkable success. When only a youth he became interested in theology, and in 1869 was distressed at the doctrine of eternal torment. He formulated a doctrine for himself and explained his investigations in a book called The Divine Plan of the Ages. This writing was approved by many denominations, but was bitterly attacked by the majority. From 1873 Russell devoted his time and money toward the promulgation of his Bible-harmonies, though continuing his commercial interests for about 10 years longer under the care of assistants. He is the editor of a journal published twice a month and is also president of a society organized for the purpose of promulgating his doctrines. Some of his writings are, The Time Is at Hand, Thy Kingdom Come, The Day of Vengeance and The New Creation. These books have been published in numerous languages and even in raised texts for the blind. Their circulation runs up into the millions. He also is the author of Our Lord's Return, Why Evil Was Permitted, The Bible vs. Evolution, What Say the Scriptures About Hell? A Reply to Robert Ingersoll, and Tabernacle Shadows of Better Sacrifices. Russell's followers number probably less than 50,000, but the influence of his teachings is believed to have been left to some degree in every congregation throughout English-speaking Christendom. He holds that the scriptures teach that by 1915 the millenial age will be ushered in by a period of unprecedented trouble and anarchy.

THOMAS MOORE

Please publish a short biography of Thomas Moore.—S. P. J., Belmont, N. Y.

Thomas Moore, the Irish poet, was born in Dublin, 1779, and died in 1852. Anacreon, his first volume of poems, was published in 1800. The following year he published the Poetical Works of Thomas Little, which was much more popular than his first work. From 1803 to 1804 Moore was engaged in civil service in the Bermudas. After this he made a tour of the United States and Canada. In 1811 Moore married Bessy Dyke, an actress of admirable character. His principal writings were political satires in the Whig interest. They were full of wit and greatly interested the people of that time, though they are of small value now. His works which are of permanent value are the Irish Melodies, Lalla Rookh, Loves of the Angels, Life of Sheridan, The Epicurean, Life of Byron, and the History of Ireland. Moore was also a song writer of general excellence.

GREAT ICE AGE

Will you please give a description of the ice age in the columns of your paper?—W. J. D., Toledo, O.

The astronomical theory to account for the cold which caused the glacial period attributes it to a very slow movement of the earth, by which the poles travel in a circle, it requiring many thousands of years to complete it. By this motion, first one pole and then the other was turned more toward the sun. When the south pole was thus turned toward our luminary, the north pole was turned away from it, and vice versa. When the north pole was thus turned away, the earth had, over its northern hemisphere, the era of cold which is called the great ice age, or the glacial period, or the drift period. All three names refer to the same thing.

There has been such a condition both in the northern and the southern hemispheres. There being so much more land in the northern hemisphere, the evidences are much more abundant than in the southern. Then, too, the southern hemisphere has not been explored by geologists to anything like the extent the northern hemisphere has. In both hemispheres its evidences are seen from the pole to the latitude of about 38 degrees. In both the same conditions are found, and the same evidences of glacial action. It is reasonable to suppose that the glacial period in the southern hemisphere came before that in the northern, as it is not more than 7,000 years since the ice retreated so that the Niagara river could begin cutting the gorge from the falls to Lewiston; and the tremendous ice-cap which covers all the polar regions of the southern hemisphere is probably the initial stages of another glacial era which is coming over that portion of the globe.

GEORGE G. BARNARD

Please give a sketch of George G Barnard, the sculptor.—L. B., Pleasantville, Pa.

George Grey Barnard, the eminent American sculptor, was born in Bellefonte, Pa., May 24, 1863. He studied at the Chicago Art Institute and the Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts, Paris, from 1884 to 1887. His first exhibition was at the salon of 1894. Six years later he received a gold medal at the Paris exposition. Barnard received the same kind of a prize at the Buffalo exposition in 1901. He is now professor of sculpture of the Art Students' league, New York. His chief works are mostly symbolized in character. Some of them are Brotherly Love, The Two Natures, The God Pan and The Hewer.

MANUFACTURES IN MEXICO

I would like to know something about manufactures in Mexico.—E. O. M., Richwood, O.

Most of the manufacturing done in Mexico is for local needs. The most important industry is that of making goods from unbleached cotton or manta. This employs 50,000 families in field and mill. Next is the woolen manufacture with two or three dozen mills and many hand-looms. They make the zarape, used by the natives as a cloak by day and a blanket by night. The silk industry is growing slowly, and there are a few paper mills. In every town there are potters engaged in the manufacture of a coarse pottery. Sugar is also refined to a considerable degree. Nearly every town has a cigarette factory, and many pounds of tobacco are used every year. Other manufactures are household and agricultural implements, hardware and cutlery, and in the capital city there is a government cannon foundry and arsenal. A little glass is made, leather work is widely spread, felt hats are made in the chief cities, straw hats in all, hammocks are made in Yucatan, and silver is wrought in all parts. Chocolate and confectionery are also made in widely scattered parts of the country, and cotton-seed oil mills are numerous.

ROBERT MORRIS

Will you please give a sketch of the life of Robert Morris in the Question Bureau?—S. H. B., Clarion, Pa.

Robert Morris, the American financier, was born in 1734, and died in 1806. His birthplace was Lancashire, England. In 1747 Morris came to America, engaging in business in Philadelphia, seven years later. He was one of those opposed to the stamp act, and it was against his business interests that he signed the non-importation agreement in 1765. In 1775, 1776 and 1777 he was elected to the continental congress, and while a member voted against the declaration of independence as premature, but when it was passed he signed it. From 1781 to 1784 he was superintendent of finance. During the Revolution his services in assisting the government in its finances were of a large value. He pledged his personal credit for supplies for the army, and at one time to the amount of $1,400,000, without which the campaign of 1781 would have been almost impossible. Morris established what was known as the Bank of North America. He was a member of the convention which framed the federal constitution, and from 1789 to 1795 was a member of the U. S. senate. While serving his term he was offered the position of secretary of the treasury, but declined, suggesting the name of Alexander Hamilton for the post.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

Will you please give a description of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor?—G. L., Verham, Me.

The Statue of Liberty is situated on Bedloe's Island in New York harbor. The statue was a present from the people of France to the United States. It was unveiled October 28, 1886. Bartholdi designed the statue. The money was raised by popular subscription in France, taking five years to complete the fund. The statue is made of bronze and weighs 450,000 pounds; the bronze alone weighs 200,000 pounds. Forty persons can stand in the head, and 12 in the torch. Four hundred and three steps lead from the base of the foundation to the top of the torch, while from the ground to the top of pedestal there are 195 steps. There are 154 steps leading from the pedestal to the head, and the ladder leading up through the extended right arm to the torch has 54 rounds. The total cost of the statue, including the pedestal and cost of erection, is $600,000. Liberty exceeds in height the Colossus of Rhodes as the statue proper is 151 feet and 5 inches in height.

JOHN C. RIDPATH

I would like to have a short biography of John Clark Ridpath.—J. M. D., Lafferty, O.

John Clark Ridpath, the American historian, was born April 26, 1840, and died August 1, 1900. His parents were poor, but the boy had diligence and quickness, which overcame all obstacles. From childhood he gave tokens of great talents and character. He educated himself under great difficulties. His parents, however, supplied him with a few books because of his fondness for study. He studied natural philosophy, history, some chemistry and astronomy. At seventeen he taught school and served as a clerk in order to complete his education. But his father came to the rescue and furnished the means for young Ridpath to attend one year at college. He graduated in 1863, having gone through a six years' course in four. He became principal of Thornton academy in 1864 and superintendent of the schools in Lawrenceburg in 1866. Ridpath later taught English literature and history in the college from which he had graduated. In 1879 he was elected vice president of the university. Ridpath became an author through the historical studies suggested by the work of his department. In 1874 he published his first book. After that his books were in great demand and he sold many copies. In 1880 he received the degree of LL. D. from the Syracuse university. In 1863 Ridpath married Hannah R. Smythe and has three daughters and one son, who have in a measure inherited their father's talents.

MAUD BALLINGTON BOOTH

I would like to have you tell me something about the life of Maud Ballington Booth.—S. W. N., Cochranton, Pa.

Maud Ballington Booth, a leader of the Volunteers of America, was born near London, 1865. During the early part of her life she was active in the work of the Salvation Army in England, and established a corps of the Salvation Army in Switzerland. In 1887 she married Ballington Booth, and in 1896 joined him in seceding from the Salvation Army and organizing the Volunteers of America. She has done much work for prisoners, both during their imprisonment and after their release.

GENERAL JOHN MORGAN

Will the Question Bureau please give a sketch of the life of General John Morgan, the raider?—W. E. P., Manchester, Mich.

John Morgan, the confederate general, was born in Huntsville, Alabama, June 1, 1826, and died in Greenville, Tennessee, September 4, 1864. He was first lieutenant of cavalry in the Mexican war, and afterwards a manufacturer in Lexington, Ky. In the civil war he became a major general in 1862, and the next winter commanded a cavalry force under Bragg which harassed Rosecran's communications. Leaving the regular service, he organized a guerrilla band which inflicted enormous damage in Kentucky. In June, 1863, he began a gigantic raid through Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, but was brought to bay and routed, finally captured and imprisoned in the Ohio penitentiary. He escaped and headed a fresh raid in Tennessee, but was betrayed at a farm house, surrounded in the night, and killed while attempting to escape.

MISCELLANEOUS

H. M., Newmansville, Pa.—The information you want was published in The Blade of November 15.

L. L. D., Clayton, Ill.—All United States senators are elected by the legislatures of their respective states.

G. M., Farmland, Ind.—John McElroy is still living. His address is 1412 16th street, Washington, D. C.

W. J. A., New Baltimore, N. Y.—The production of an acre of corn is figured according to the number of bushels of corn on the ear that is produced.

Smoke of Herbs Cures Catarrh

A Simple, Safe, Reliable Way and It Costs Nothing to Try.

This preparation of herbs, leaves, flowers and berries (containing no tobacco or habit-forming drugs) is either smoked in an ordinary clean pipe or smoking tube, and by drawing the medicated smoke into the mouth and inhaling into the lungs or sending it out through the nostrils in a perfectly natural way, the worst case of Catarrh can be eradicated.

It is not unpleasant to use, and at the same time it is entirely harmless, and can be used by man, woman or child.

Just as Catarrh is contracted by breathing cold or dust and germ-laden air, just so this balmy antiseptic smoking remedy goes to all the affected parts of the air passages of the head, nose, throat and lungs. It can readily be seen why the ordinary treatments, such as sprays, ointments, salves, liquid or tablet medicines fail—they do not and can not reach all the affected parts.

If you have catarrh of the nose, throat or lungs, choking, stopped-up feeling, colds, catarrhal headaches; if you are given to hawking and spitting, this simple yet scientific treatment should cure you.

An illustrated book which goes thoroughly into the whole question of the cause, cure and prevention of catarrh will, upon request, be sent you by Dr. J. W. Blosser, 254 Walton street, Atlanta, Ga.

He will, also, mail you five days' free treatment. You will at once see that it is a wonderful remedy, and as it only costs one dollar for the regular treatment, it is within the reach of everyone. It is not necessary to send any money—simply send your name and address and the booklet and free trial package will be mailed you immediately.

The Secret of Chanticleer.

A grave question has been raised in Atlantic. It concerns a rooster owned by one William McInnes, and the right of that rooster to crow unrestrained; also, the right of Mr. McInnes to own and operate a crowing apparatus to the annoyance of his neighbors.

Mayor Shea of Quincy has been petitioned to abate the rooster. Now, we do not know the law on the case. We are not certain that the Constitution of the United States and the decisions of the supreme court of either the state or nation provide adequate redress. We do know, however, that this same momentous question recently came to an issue in Chicago, under similar circumstances, and that it was disposed of amicably through a device proposed by a Chicago man skilled in the anatomy and psychology of roosters.

A rooster cannot or will not crow without raising his head high in the air. If you prevent him from stretching his neck, you suppress his crow. All you have to do, therefore, to keep him quiet, is to make his coop low enough so that, whenever he feels a crow swelling his bosom and clamoring for utterance, he bumps his head. After a few bumps, he may even give up in despair, and lose all desire to crow, even if liberated.

The Work of the Church

THE question is much discussed among ministers, Why do not more people go to church? We wish they would substitute another question Why do not the churches go to more people? The question is very effectively put in a letter which lies before us from a clergyman. It was not written for publication, but we venture to quote from it without giving the writer's name:

"For years it has been my growing conviction that the church life of our time is really merely playing with the great problems of humanity. We try to build a superstructure that we call moral and spiritual, and we have not the foundations on which to build, namely, a clean, pure, strong, sound physical life. Our churches ought to be open to every sort of instruction and work that shall insure to every boy and girl knowledge and training that shall save them from blighting evils. We ought to open our churches to our physicians to help do this work wisely and effectively. When such work is done, then our moral and spiritual work will have the right foundations on which to build—and not till then. For there will always be many homes where this work is not done by parents, and the churches ought to see that it is done, as the very basis of all true religious work.

"There is also the question of providing the public the right sort of amusements, if we are going to object to such as are now provided by the playhouses, the pool-rooms, etc.

"The street corners every night show how many men have no places of recreation or of profitable resort. Our churches, instead of being shut every night save for our very inefficient prayer meetings, ought to be wide open and to present a variety of attractive programs of amusement or instruction every night in the week."

There are those who object to any such work as this undertaken by the church, because they say that it is a departure from the church's legitimate religious function. But it is not a departure from the church's legitimate religious function. If men were hungry, Jesus fed them; if they were ignorant, he instructed them; if they were in sorrow, he comforted them; if they were in sin and despair because of sin, he brought them a message of pardon. This evangelical message of pardon was only a part of his work. It may have been the most important part. It may have been even the largest part, measured by time, though that we doubt. But it certainly was not his whole work. And the commission which he gave to his church was to carry on the work which he himself had done; it was to feed the hungry, teach the ignorant, comfort the sorrowing, succor and save the sinful. If the church would follow the example of its Master, it must study human nature, understand human needs and minister to those needs, whatever they are, either by its own direct activity or by inspiring the ministering activities in other organizations.

Jesus Christ, in His prayer, said to His Father: "I have glorified thee on the earth," and He added a sentence which explains how He had glorified God on the earth: "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." And, in the very opening of His mission, He declared in the synagogue at Nazareth what the work was which had been given Him to do: "The Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised." There are multitudes of poor in our great cities to whom the church might well preach glad tidings by carrying a message of cheer to them where they are. It is no great wonder if they do not come to wealthy churches in aristocratic neighborhoods, filled by well-dressed and sometimes over-dressed congregations, to see if the church has good tidings for them. The men who proclaimed liberty to the slave in America, whether they were in the church or out of the church, were doing the work which Christ declared He came to do, and which He commissioned His church to carry on in His name and on His behalf. Some of the social settlements are fulfilling Christ's mission better than some of the Christian churches. In our judgment, the social settlement would fulfill that mission still more effectively if it did so in the name of the Christ who set the example and who inspires the spirit. To build a handsome church, put it in a wealthy part of the city, and to open it three or four hours a week, is not to imitate the example of Christ; nor is it to fulfill the mission of Him who said: "As the Father hath sent me into the world, so send I you into the world."

We submit to ministers and churches, to councils and conferences, as a legitimate subject for discussion, in lieu of the oft-debated question, Why do not people go to church? the more important but less debated question, Why do not the churches go to the people?

Riley's Writing Days Are Over

ONLY a few weeks ago James Whitcomb Riley was asked to write a Christmas message in the form of a poem. He looked sadly at his withered hand, the result of a paralytic stroke that has robbed him of his physical activity for the last two years, and remarked, "No more writing for me." When it was suggested that he might distate a poem, he said "No, no, no. One cannot write poetry that way. One must hold the pen to catch the rhythm and metre."

It is said by relatives of the Hoosier poet that he has always humored his moods. Even in the early days when he was struggling as a reporter on newspapers his work was more or less irregular, and later in life, when he lectured he refused to sign for long terms.

James Whitcomb Riley is not only a poet, but he was born with enough talents to have earned a living for half a dozen persons. He could sing, play the banjo, dance, act or draw as well or better than most professionals in any of these lines. As a writer of verse and prose he has displayed wide versatility. Although he is known chiefly as the poet of the Hoosier dialect, he has written in English as pure as the most polished writers. His divergent moods find expression in such poems as Good-by, Jim; Take Care of Yourself, The Old Swimmin' Hole, An Old Sweetheart of Mine, Old Fashioned Roses, Little Orphant Annie, When She Comes Home, Flying Islands of the Night, Armazindy, and others.

It is said that he could rhyme before he could lisp. According to a statement accredited to him he wrote rhymes before he attained the knickerbocker age. All of the children in the neighborhood were exchanging valentines. The parents of the youngster did not give him pennies to spend, but he was not handicapped by this drawback, but copied the valentines bought by the other children, except that he made faces like the persons to whom he intended sending the valentines. After he had finished the pictures he wrote rhymes of his own. From that time Riley continued to write and would recite his own verses. He was afraid that his hearers would not like the verses if they knew he wrote them and would say he had found them in some old book or paper. Whenever one made a hit he would save it and work it over.

He kept up his talent for drawing by painting signs on drug store windows to see a crowd collect. This led to a job with a patent medicine concern. His duties were to draw pictures on a blackboard in the street to attract the crowd. As a further amusement for the onlookers the medicine people would play off Riley as a blind sign painter. Riley had protruding eyes and would write off the medicine man's ware on the blackboard, meanwhile maintaining a blank stare that convinced the crowd of his blindness. He also made tours of the country, decorating the fences and barnsides with messages.

His cleverness at sign writing took him to the Greenfield weekly paper. The death of that paper sent him to Anderson, a neighboring town, where he was made local editor of the Democrat at a salary of $8 a week. Many of his verses were printed in that paper under the nom de plume of Benjamin Johnson of Boone. Riley continued to peg away, and finally came into public notice as the result of a hoax, a poem written by him being palmed off as having come from the pen of Poe. The poem was the outcome of a banter. Will Kinnard, a reporter on a rival paper, had taunted Riley that his verses were simply rot and not worth the paper they were printed upon. Riley offered to wager Kinnard that he could write a poem that would pass for one of Poe's. As a consequence he wrote Leonaine and sent it to a Kokomo paper, where it was published as a poem of Poe's that had been found on the flyleaf of an old dictionary. The poem immediately attracted widespread attention and there was a call for the original manuscript. With a quill and diluted ink the alleged Poe manuscript was written and produced.

The exposure of the hoax cost Riley his $8 a week job on the Democrat. Subsequently John C. New, owner of the Indianapolis Journal, sent for Riley and he was put on the staff of that paper. The hoax cost Riley much criticism, and it is said that he has always regretted it.

Of One Who Walks Alone.

These are the ways of one who walks alone,
Sweet silent ways that lead toward twilight skies,
Bees softly winging when a low wind sighs,
Through the hills' hollow, cool and clover-blown.

These are the ways that call one back again
To old forgotten things in faded years,
Swift on a moment of remembered tears
They stand from out the dust where they have lain.

These are the ways life's simple secrets bless,
Keen homely scents borne by each haunted wind;
Here in the silence one may ever find
That last strange peace whose name is loneliness.

—Thomas S. Jones, Jr., in Scribner's.

A New Armor Plate.

A German engineer is reported to have invented a new kind of armor plate, which has just been tested by the naval authorities and reported upon favorably. The peculiarity of the armor is its extreme lightness while it has been proved, it is said to be of equal, if not greater resisting power. The armor is made up of a special aluminum alloy, faced by a thin, hardened steel plate. Gun shields made from it have been definitely ordered for the new cruiser Strasburg.

War Today.

Pearson's Weekly.

War is waged nowadays according to certain rules drawn up at the various international conventions held at The Hague and elsewhere.

The commander of a hostile army may not attack towns, villages or buildings that are not defended.

Unfortified places may not be bombarded. Brighton, for example, being unfortified, could not be attacked according to the law of nations, if England went to war.

Quarter must be given if asked for. To declare that no quarter will be given before delivering an assault is not allowed.

A victorious army is not allowed to pillage a captured town or fortress.

Nations have agreed among themselves that no poisons or poisoned weapons shall be used for war purposes.

Spies formerly received short shrift when caught red-handed. Now, however, a spy cannot be punished without trial. Soldiers in uniform who succeed in entering the lines of the enemy to obtain information cannot be punished as spies.

Aviators who reconnoiter the enemy's position by means of balloons or aeroplanes are expressly exempted from being classed as spies.

If a spy succeeds in getting away, and is subsequently captured after rejoining his army, he is treated as a prisoner of war, and not as a spy.

The commander of an attacking force must give formal notice of his intention to bombard a place, so as to give non-combatants the chance to escape.

An attacking force must spare, as far as possible, all buildings devoted to religion, art, science, charity, and especially those places where the sick and wounded are collected.

Hospital ships are exempt from capture. They must, however, fly the Red Cross flag, as well as their national flag. All hospital ships are painted white, with a broad green band running right round the hull.

The medical, hospital staff and religious staff of any captured ship cannot be made prisoners of war. Nor may ambulances be fired upon.

The person of the bearer of a flag of truce is sacred, as well as the bugler and interpreter who may accompany him.

Civilians caught bearing arms, as well as soldiers not in uniform, are liable to be shot after trial by court-martial.

The people of a conquered country must be allowed to retain their private property intact. Their family honors and rights, religious convictions and liberties must be respected.

A Victim of Carelessness.

Washington Star.

General F. D. Grant, at a dinner in West Point, once analyzed the military genius of Washington.

"Washington," he said, "gave us our independence by campaigning faultlessly. He never made mistakes. There have been more brilliant soldiers than Washington, but there never has been so sure a one.

"In warfare, you must know, the smallest mistake may lose a whole battle, a whole campaign, a whole cause. And that reminds me of poor Tom White.

"Tom White failed in business owing to the mistake of one single letter made by his stenographer. Tom's patron in business was a deaf millionaire, who was very touchy about his deafness. This millionaire turned from a good friend to a bitter enemy—he foreclosed on Tom because the unhappy fellow's stenographer accidently began a letter to him:

"'Deaf Sir:'"

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Would you like to eat all you want to, and what you want to without having distress in your stomach? Would you like to say farewell to Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Sour Stomach, Distress after Eating, Nervousness, Catarrh of the Stomach, Heart Fluttering, Sick Headache and Constipation? Then send us ten cents in silver to cover cost of packing and postage and we will send you absolutely FREE a five-day course of Peptopad Treatment. Peptopad treatment is a combination internal and external treatment and its great success lies in its two-fold power. We strengthen and invigorate the stomach nerves and muscles from the exterior and correct the gastric disturbances from the interior and accomplish both at one time. Peptopad Treatment removes soreness and pain from stomach and bowels and repairs the digestion insuring proper assimilation of the food you eat which means disappearance of constipation as well as stomach trouble. Send 10c in silver for postage and packing today and receive this 5-day course FREE. Dr. G. C. Young Company, 751 Patriot Building, Jackson Michigan.

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I have a new Method that cures rupture and I want you to use it at my expense. I am not trying to sell you a Truss, but offer you a cure that stays cured and ends all truss-wearing and danger of strangulation forever.

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Time Ruptured........

Cause of Rupture........

Name........

Address........

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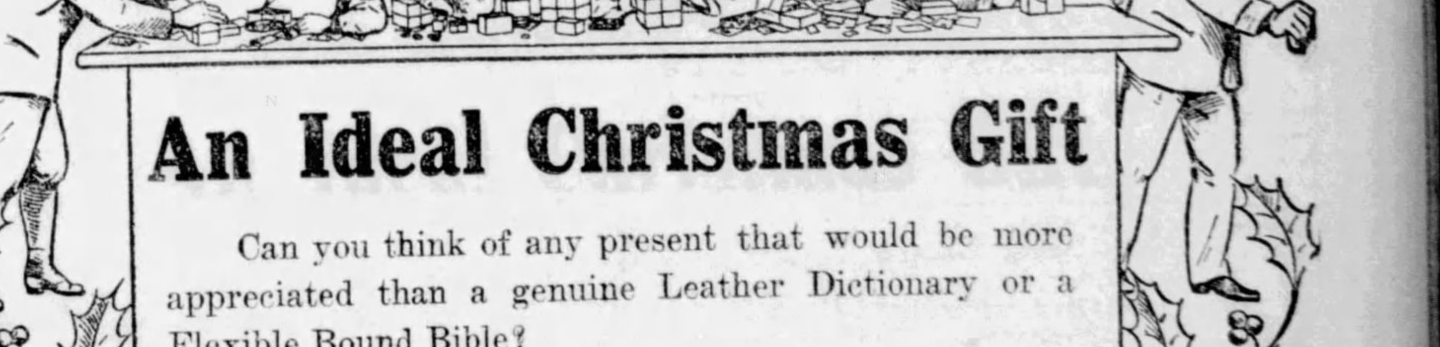

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Can you think of any present that would be more appreciated than a genuine Leather Dictionary or a Flexible Bound Bible?

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All Charges Prepaid.

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All you need to do is to cut out and mail us two consecutive coupons, printed herewith, together with 97 cents, and the Dictionary will be mailed to you, or cut out and mail us two consecutive coupons and $1.03 and the Bible will be mailed to you, postage prepaid. These books are both great values. If you want one or both of these books, send all orders with remittance to The Weekly Blade, Toledo, Ohio.

DICTIONARY OR BIBLE COUPON

December 21, 1911.

Two Consecutive Coupons Constitute a Set.

The Blade Will Be Forced to Withdraw These Offers After the Holidays. Send in at once.

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1911.

Largest and Best Weekly Published and Largest Circulation.

TOLEDO BLADE CO.......Publishers
ROBINSON LOCKE..............Editor

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover each week all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is one of the strongest and most thoughtful in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited and the whole paper is intended for the home of the free American people.

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Single copy, weekly, one year, $1.00; six months, 60 cents; three months, 30 cents. Write for club terms.

SPECIMEN COPIES sent postpaid, free to any address. Send for one and at the same time give us the address of a dozen or so of your friends. Address

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

Entered at the postoffice at Toledo as second-class mail matter.

The Weekly Blade has over a million readers a week.

Take Time

It is not a good plan to pass over Blade advertisements with the excuse that you haven't the time to read them. Cultivate the habit of reading them from week to week. Nobody can afford to run the risk of missing an opportunity. Take time and look them over.

It's poor taste to quote Kipling's female of the species in the presence of mother.

The lazy fellow doesn't start out to follow the crowd until about half of 'em are coming back.

King Alfonso's wife hasn't had much time to devote to club work since she was married.

Emma Goldman praises the McNamaras. Emma never crawfishes on the original proposition.

The Rev. Billy Sunday has given his batting average another boost by converting a Kansas editor.

Men shake hands with a great deal more warmth than women exhibit when they kiss each other.

Perhaps China could be persuaded to accept a second-hand congress, cheap; almost as good as new.

No doubt many a man feels like adopting a policy of slow pay when it comes to a question of alimony.

Alfred Tennyson Dickens declares that this is a wonderful country. Evidently he got what he came after.

Many a politician who has imagined himself the son of destiny has had to become reconciled to a step-father.

English royalty, when it fell into the sea the other day, was bright enough to discover that the water was wet.

Democrats always seem to be more numerous when there is a candidate to be nominated than on election day.

Vegetable diet beat meat diet in their race across the continent. It was a grand victory for boiled cabbage.

Perhaps it doesn't mean anything in particular, but Los Angeles women voted for a man who wears chin whiskers.

If there isn't much the matter with you the doctor always seems inclined to take his time about getting you well.

A picture of himself, taken in his cherub days, is no inspiration to the man who is trying to shave with a dull razor.

A Philadelphia physician says that mince pie, taken in moderation, will cure insomnia. About how many triangles, doctor?

Consensus of opinion seems to favor the notion that Vice President Sherman is too bright a man to come out for another term.

Probably the happiest woman in Los Angeles on election day was the one who had been advocating equal suffrage since 1853.

Mr. La Follette is among the prominent men who won't find it interesting to sit on the fence and watch the Roosevelt boom go by.

General Sherwood has again proved the soundness of the doctrine of keeping everlastingly at a thing, if you want to put it across.

Mr. Carnegie declares that he doesn't care what people think of him. Why should he? He never expects to be a candidate for office.

One hundred and fifty native rulers of India knelt in homage before the king. George's cream-satin knickerbockers surely got their goat.

A Boston man wants the women to do the proposing. That would never do. It would be harder for a man to say "no" than it is for women to say "yes."

Vesuvius has been throwing mud again. And yet people who live in the neighborhood probably think that Home, Sweet Home is a great little song.

"An eastern highbrow asserts that we are losing our sense of smell." From which we may infer that he doesn't live in a boiled cabbage neighborhood.

Abdul Hamid, ex-sultan of Turkey, is very ill. Losing his job doesn't seem to have improved the old fellow's health. He used to get sick every time somebody presented a bill.

The men who framed the Constitution were wise in many ways, but they never realized what a bother it would be to posterity to go through a presidential campaign every four years.

THE MAINE REPORT.

The final decision of the experts who have examined the battleship Maine, after the water and mud have been pumped away from the wreck, gives the fullest support to the opinion reached by those who made the inspections immediately following the disaster. The Sampson board has been vindicated. So also has been the Spanish war.

The case of the Maine shows how difficult it would be to apply the provisions of an arbitration treaty to certain offenses against the peace and dignity of a nation. However much this country might have loved peace for its own sake, it is doubtful if it would have been willing in 1898 to let an arbitrator decide whether Spain should go unpunished or not. Even though the Spanish government was blameless for the crime, it was responsible for the conditions which bred the crime. It refused to consider demands for the remedy of these conditions. It insisted that it had the Cuban rebellion well in hand and would bring it to an end in its own way. An arbitrator would in every likelihood have considered that the anarchy in Cuba was a question apart from the blowing up of the Maine.

Arbitration treaties, we all hope, mark the way to universal peace. They are not likely to succeed, however, in keeping peace between nations after such outrageous crimes as the destruction of the Maine.

EIGHT YEARS OF DODGING.

The strategies which the western packers have adopted in their defence against the department of justice have had little to do with the question of their guilt or innocence. They have fought against being brought to trial. They have raised every point and utilized every technical maneuver in order to avoid having to answer the charges of violating the anti-trust law.

As the packers have dodged the sword of justice, so can all trusts who have the sinews of war and a corps of shrewd and inventive lawyers. Theirs not to reason why they should obey the law, but to consider how they can escape obeying it for long and profitable periods.

The trusts are here to stay, whether good or bad. Merely thundering at them and bringing them to the bar occasionally will not end them. If we can once realize that the great combinations are facts accomplished, we will have reached an important stage in the solution of the problems which the trusts have created. The next step is their rigid control and supervision.

WHEN MURDER ISN'T MURDER.

A native of the Ozark country who was called upon to make his plea before the bar of a local court indignantly protested.

"Them constables haint got no right to bring me down here at all, Jedge," he said. "That leetle trouble I was mixed up with wa'n't a murder. Hit was only a killin'."

Mr. Carl Snyder, discussing the prevalence of crime in the United States in Collier's Weekly, says:

> If you commit a murder, it is a better than 3 to 1 shot that you will never be brought to trial.
>
> It is a better than 10 to 1 shot that you will never be sentenced to the penitentiary.
>
> It is better than 80 to 1 shot that you will never be hanged or electrocuted.

Inasmuch as homicide in this country amounts to little more than the disturbance of the peace, it might be well for lawmakers to define the difference between a murder and a killin', in order that the constables shall not subject a law-abiding citizen to the discomforts of jail as preliminary to the granting of his freedom in court.

ARIZONA IN ILL-TEMPER.

Mr. Taft had the satisfaction of producing an unanswerable argument as to the dangers stored up in the principle of judiciary recall when he vetoed the Arizona statehood bill. But as was predicted at the time, it failed to convince the voters of Arizona that they were wrong. On the other hand it made them feel aggrieved in that the President virtually informed them that they were not competent to pass upon what was right and proper for themselves. This is to be noted in the temper of the election of last week.

That the recall will be reinstated in the constitution of Arizona at the earliest moment seems altogether probable. But what is worse, there will be widespread eagerness to give the doctrine a test. Caution might have advised Arizona that this substitute for the exercise of citizenship at the polls was loaded with peril. The state would have avoided putting it into action. But since the President has chosen to rebuke the people of Arizona, little time will be lost on the part of the people of Arizona to show the President that they know what they want when they want it.

We believe Mr. Taft was right about the recall. We think he was wrong in arousing a passion for putting the recall into practice.

CHANGES IN THE CORN BELT.

The states of Illinois, Iowa and Kansas were the banner corn states in 1889, having more than one-fourth of the total acreage of this crop. Their positions were still unchanged when the census bureau gathered its statistics in 1909. But the figures have undergone decided change.

Illinois had 2.1 per cent less acreage in corn in 1909 than in 1899. It raised 2 per cent less corn. Yet the value of the crop of 1909 was $83,274,595 more, or 72.4 per cent, than that of 1899. Iowa cut its acreage 5.9 per cent and produced nearly 11 per cent less in 1909 than in 1899. But the state earned over $70,000,000 more from the sale of its 1909 crop. The decrease of acreage in Kansas was 1.9 per cent of production 32.7 per cent. Still it managed to get 39 per cent more for its restricted crop of 1909 than it did from the larger acreage and production of ten years earlier.

Ohio dropped from eighth to ninth place in point of acreage in the ten years, but climbed from seventh to sixth place in point of production. The increase in the average value of corn from 31 cents to 56 cents brought Ohio farmers $34,289,374 more in 1909 than in 1899, an increase of 71.4 per cent, though the increase in acreage was only 2.4 per cent and that of production 3.6 per cent.

The comparisons, while showing a tendency to plant less corn, do not shake the sovereignty of the crop. Corn still remains king.

MELANCHOLIA IN THE ARMY.

When the army asks for an appropriation it describes the state of the service for congress and the country to moan over.

You are to gather from the report that the military is probably the most unfit institution allowed at large. Its personnel is handsome, but its system, for lack of funds, is a mere skeleton of rattling bones. The enlisted force is sturdy and well drilled, what there is of it, but the force wouldn't make a respectable showing in a baseball crowd.

The studied melancholy is for the purpose of touching the hearts of representatives and senators and capitalizing the pity for a few more thousand dollars. If some one should rise in congress and suggest that, inasmuch as the army admits its inefficiency, it would be advisable to substitute scientific managers for weeping major generals, the reports thereafter would be models in optimism.

STANDARD CHANGES.

If the press has failed to review the life and achievements of Mr. John D. Rockefeller upon the occasion of his retirement from the Standard Oil presidency, if friends have not deluged him with well wishes, and state and federal notables have not seized the opportunity as one to advertise themselves, Mr. Rockefeller is not cast down. He is quite aware he has done as well as could be expected. He is proud of the example he has set. With the modest accumulations of a thrifty career beside him he can lean back to rest, content with the sound of tinkling interest "like softest music to attending ears."

Mr. John D. Archbold is now to have the duties and responsibilities of the abdicated king. In the fierce light which beats about the Standard throne, the figure of Archbold has long been plainly visible. He is of few words and full of dodges. From the master genius he has learned that a platitude is as good as a column of indignant denial and it is the height of impropriety to ask of his inferiors in office just how every victory has been compassed. Out of his own experience, he has found it wisest to carry the one and only key to the letter-file.

Two great worthies! When they have absorbed the last property of the last independent producer, and the field of their enterprise will have been exhausted, the world may never see their like again. That is, if it be true that the world is growing better.

OUR PASSPORTS IGNORED.

The Russian passport question is a question whether the czar's ministers can at will annul that part of the treaty with the United States in which it is laid down that citizens of the two countries "shall be at liberty to sojourn and reside in all parts whatsoever of said territories, in order to attend to their affairs on condition of their submitting to the laws and ordinances there prevailing."

Attempts have been made for several years to persuade Russia to live up to the terms of that treaty. The efforts have been energy wasted. Patience has at last ceased to become a virtue and it is now become the duty of the federal government either to abrogate the treaty wholly or to obtain assurances from St. Petersburg that the treaty shall be observed in good faith.

The house of representatives accurately reflects the opinion of the country in this matter.

THE LAKES-TO-GULF DEMAND.

The resolutions of the Lakes-to-the-Gulf Deep Waterway association which met in Chicago in October have been presented to the house of representatives and printed in the Congressional Record.

The resolutions avoid mentioning the report of the government engineers in which it is shown that the projected waterway will bring about an alarming lowering of the depth of water in Lakes Huron and Erie, but the resolutions snarl at the federal engineers for what is pronounced a "desire to circumvent transportation by an adequate system of commercial navigation." If facts interfere with a theory so much the worse for the facts!

Says the association:

> To the enforcement of this demand we pledge our individual effort and united support; and we hereby publicly pledge our personal honor, each for himself and to each other, to support no candidate for congress or for any public office who will not unqualifiedly indorse and maintain that policy.

If that is to be the game, we propose that no candidate for congress in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York—whose vital interests it is proposed wantonly to destroy for a mere experiment—shall be indorsed and supported who does not unqualifiedly oppose the Lakes-to-the-Gulf project.

Slamming an open door in somebody's face is not a good national policy.

ANTI-LABOR INTOXICATION.

In the course of a speech by John Kirby, president of the National Manufacturers' association, he said that:

Organized labor had a determined policy either to control or ruin the commerce and industries of the country.

Its record and the utterances of its officers left no shadow of doubt that its policy is to employ any means, no matter how brutal, unlawful or unreasonable, to gain its ends.

It is a cold, merciless organization with no regard for the flag. The leaders asked punishment for the McNamaras, not because of guilt, but because they confessed.

Organized labor could ask for no better welding material for its cause than the hydrophobiac speeches of the Kirbys. Mr. Kirby relieves his mind, but he gains about as much for the point he is trying to make as the wind in Aesop's fable did in trying to make the traveler shed his coat.

A FAMOUS PUBLICATION.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Congressional Record, has begun the issue of its forty-eighth volume. In rain and storm, in the frying pan heat of a Washington summer and in the snow and sleet of the ideal inauguration flareback, the Congressional Record goes to press, calm, imperturbable, cool as a shellback representative cashing his voucher.

The Congressional Record is distinguished for other notable things than that it refuses to solicit advertising or give a premium of china sets with subscriptions. In its way, it is scientific artistic. It can give a wad of manuscript all the semblance of a speech, though never a word of it has been spoken aloud. It can inject "cheers" and "prolonged applause" as easily as the fireman of No. 7 stoking up on the down grade. The verbiduct of the capitol pours its torrents and windy typhoons into the government printing office, yet if the compositors be given a just allowance of scrap tobacco they will get the Congressional Record out on time without a flower of poetry missing. Moreover, all this can be performed without the necessity of calling in the marine hospital corps to administer treatment to linotype operators and proofreaders for nausea.

It is a great institution—is the Congressional Record. If you are patient and industrious you will meet with every famous quotation, with every creditable citation from "Metcalf on Torts" and every sentence immortalized in "Alice in Wonderland." These, however, are only secondary products of this publication. It's main output—and in that it is uneclipsed—is flapdoodle.

IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

A suit has been brought in New York to prevent the transfer of stock which, it is alleged, was stolen from a widow in Louisville. The company controlling the transfer has decided to let the stock go on changing hands, despite the suit, upon the grounds that the stock exchange business should not be tied up between firms who have never heard of the person bringing action and protesting ownership.

Suppose your horse were stolen and possession passes through many hands before you finally get trace of him. You sue to recover the animal. The person having him at the time sells him, arguing that even if the horse is not rightfully his you are interfering with trade and have no just claim.

In these days when restraint of trade is a very delicate principle and the slightest meddling with it is likely to bring down a horde of federal prosecutors upon one, it might be well to make it a punishable offense for a person to attempt to recover stolen property.

STILL IN CONVULSIONS.

The thunder of the reciprocity campagn in Canada keeps rumbling on. The oratory brought into being is proving itself possessed of the elements of immortality. There are Canadians who actually believe that annexation is favored by a marked percentage of the citizens of the United States. Champ Clark is not a humorist to folk across the border. Rudyard Kipling's words, "It is her own soul that Canada risks today," are as fervently believed and defended now as in the emotional hours of the campaign.

This constant ringing of the fire alarm will surely work a transformation in the attitude of citizens of the United States toward Canadians. The friendliness that exsted toward the people of the north will grow cold under the faucets of political vituperation. Before long the United States will probably be looking toward Canada as she looked toward England for nearly a century—with suspicion and as the natural enemy. It would not be astonishing to behold the resurrection of the spread-eagle patriot, calling the Lady of the Snows names in place of twisting the tail of the British lion as he once read his duty.

The loss of the good fellowship is to be lamented. Canada, however, is finding enjoyment in this work of destruction and will not be stayed until the last atom of her fun has been exhausted. We wonder if in the end she will find that the fun has been worth while.

THE PARCELS POST.

The charge is made with countless repetition that private interests are solely responsible for the delay in the establishment of the parcels post.

This is not true. Many persons who have examined the proposition thoroughly and been attracted by it, have, nevertheless, considered it impracticable. The main reason for the objection has been the annual deficit of the postoffice department. If the department fell behind $20,000,000 in handling mail and parcels of a limited weight, it would assuredly lose five times that much if it went into the express business with rates but a fraction of those now charged by the express companies. The department, too, has been cursed with politics. It is the supply house of political patronage. Conditions in the postal service up to a year or so ago completely justified a dubious attitude toward the parcels post.

But conditions have changed. The postoffice department has been made self-sustaining. It has established the postal banking system with the care and watchfulness which such a system called for. The department seems quite competent today to undertake the formation of a parcels post service.

The postmaster general asked last year for authority to try the parcels post upon a small scale. Congress was not friendly. A second appeal has been made. This time it is to be hoped that the authority will be granted.

THE DURBAR.

The love of trappings and ceremonials lies deep in the human breast. It has caused the swelling of the city of Delhi from a population of 200,000 to one sheltering—or attempting to shelter—a half million. Humble Hindoo and African diamond king jostle each other upon the streets. Hotels raise the prices higher than the brass ball on the highest flagstaff, but the throng of tourists never ceases.

A king is crowned emperor and the princes of houses 40 centuries old bend the knee of allegiance. But the greater attraction of Delhi is the display of rich fabrics, the jewels, the precious metals and the emblems of royalty. Never before has so much of these priceless goods been massed in any one spot. Never has ceremonial been more elaborate. It has been worth while to journey far to see. Those of us who couldn't go will drop in at the nickel theatre next month and behold the durbar also—more cheaply and in more comfort.

A TRUE SON OF ADVENTURE.

That turbulent spirit, Cipriano Castro, is playing with fire again—the sport he loves above all others. He is reported to be upon the Colombian frontier with a force of soldiery waiting the opportunity to descend upon Venezuela and persuade her to recognize her old allegiance and affection.

The soldier of fortune is interesting and picturesque only so long as he is struggling for the fortune. When that is won, the romance vanishes. He is the same as any other radical made conservative by money. The charm in Castro lies in the fact that he is a son of adventure in spite of riches. After amassing a purse said to amount to sixty millions of dollars, he went away to Europe to enjoy the things that the dollars could bring him. But he did not stay. His soul was untamable. He cared more for the perils of Latin American politics than for Parisian luxuries and so he came back, daring the swamps, the fevers, the poison cup and the knife of the assassin.

Castro flings another challenge in the teeth of life. Better, he thinks, to make Venezuela a house of mourning than live himself in a house of feasting. We won't go so far as to wish the little challenges success in his undertakings, but we do wish him long life as a producer of human interest.

THE UNFAILING AIM.

When Mr. Bryan was traveling through Ohio in his first campaign for the Presidency, he grew a little confidential one evening with the newspaper correspondents who were making the tour with him.

"I know," he said, "that comparatively few voters in the country knew me before the convention. It may be that I'll be beaten, but it will be mostly because I fail to make myself as well known as the other fellow is. But I won't be satisfied with one licking—or several, for that matter."

Of all the policies with which Mr. Bryan has dallied in the fifteen years of his national life, this has been the one sure course he has clung to through thick and thin. Age cannot wither nor custom stale that infinite ambition.

A PRELIMINARY STEP.

In the year following the panic of 1907, the importation of jewels and precious stones fell to $12,862,896. Two years later, the value of these imports climbed back to $40,566,448, which was but $3,000,000 under the record year. It is estimated that because of the holiday trade of this season a new top figure will be established.

A convention of business men was held in Chicago the other day to see what could be undertaken to restore prosperity. They declared that something ought to be done. First off, they might have the statistics on jewel importations suppressed just by way of supporting the statement that the country is in a very bad way.

THE UNBOOMED OHIO APPLE.

Between the glamor of distance and the magic of words which the advertising agent spins, the northwest which once was sage brush and lava dust has been translated into a land buried under the snow of apple blossoms. Farms have been quoted at skyscraper prices. Unbroken land, hillside pasture and acreage abandoned to nettles are held for the stranger with the family fortune.

While the printer and the photographer have been working overtime to draw settlers—with money—into the northwest, the familiar old hills of central Ohio and the flat country north of the divide have been producing the best apples in the world—the apples which command the top prices, take the highest prizes and are grown upon the most "unadvertised" land in America. Year after year, the orchards yield their harvests of dollars. Year after year, the people of these districts pursue their quiet ways and smile serenely over the foolishness of folks who will go hundreds of miles from the markets, pay extravagant prices for land and overlook the real horn of plenty at their elbows.

It might be worth while for Ohio to set aside a small appropriation for an advertising fund, not particularly to draw investors from out of the state, but to keep in the state those who respond to such enchantment as the far western boomers weave.

STUDENTS OF THE TRUSTS.

The lawyers in the packers' case in Chicago say they find that the farmers have a much clearer idea of the anti-trust laws than the people of the cities.

Why shouldn't they have? The farmers have been the ones to suffer most from unregulated industrial trusts, trade associations, middlemen's combinations and windy statesmen. They have had chance to learn—at a price. Now at the time the farmers are forming trade agreements, selling associations, middlemen-eliminating schemes and protective organizations of their own, the government is demanding that the "crutch of combination be thrown away."

We suspect that the farmer is thinking it is about his turn.

The weather has much to do with the price of eggs—the weather and the artistic temperament of the hens.

King Alfonso is of the opinion that a stork should do something more than stand around on one leg.

Arizona went Democratic, but it is young yet. It may learn better as the years roll by.

Sunday School

AT THE CROSSROADS OF HISTORY

International Sunday School Lesson for December 24 Is The Christmas Story. Luke 2:1-20. Alternate Lesson "Malachi Rebuking and Encouraging Judah." Malachi 3:1-4:3.

By Wm. T. Ellis.

Anybody with even the slightest historical sense is bound to recognize that there have been certain great times, certain great places and certain great men who have stood out as landmarks of history. These are the monuments along the highways of time. The places are such as—and to understand even these few words is to know something of the sweep of the centuries—Carchemish, Ninevah, Babylon, Arbela, Memphis, Rome, Athens, Tours, Waterloo. The times and the men are indicated as the days of Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander, Rameses, Caesars, Jesus, Augustine, Columbus, Guttenberg, Luther, Washington, Napoleon, Lincoln.

Every person who has considered the tides of time will agree that the most momentous period, the most momentous place, and the most momentous person in the long annals of the human race was the beginning of the Christian era, the little strip of land along the Mediterranean, and the man Christ Jesus. Civilization has enshrined its estimate of these three factors—which are in reality one factor, the Man—in the calendars which it hangs upon its walls.

The World's Greatest Celebration.

Commemorating an era, a place and a person is Christmas, the most universal of all the many holidays kept by humanity. Other great days there are in the world: The Mohammadan Bairam, at the close of Ramadan; the Chinese New Year, the various festal days of Hindus and Buddhists. Christmas comes nearest to being absolutely universal. It is kept by some persons in all lands, and it is observed by a greater number of persons. It represents the crossroads of history.

"The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight."

Trace the tides of history, and it will be seen that here they turned. The little town of Bethlehem, at this season the capital of human hearts everywhere, has a more imperial place in the world's records than either Rome or Babylon. From it flows the genius of modern civilization, the impetus of our culture, the character of our social institutions, the slogans of our age. Let the mind brood upon Christmas, considering what the world of today would be without it, and it looms into a greatness perhaps unsuspected before. Throughout the past year the Sunday schools of the world have been studying the history of the Jews; Christmas is the culmination of it all.

A Visit to Modern Bethlehem.

There are several cures for undue reverence of mere geographical location which may be taken. One is a visit to the modern town of Bethlehem. It is but an hour's drive from Jerusalem, over a fairly good carriage road; and lucky is the visitor who does not have a talkative dragoman by his side. The scenery, in its natural phases, is that which was familiar to the Patriachs, to David, and to David's Greater Son. The buildings are new, but the hills are the same.

Bethlehem itself has been completely transformed, even as the event of that first Christmas has transformed the world. No longer is it a hillside village, with a crude khan for wayfares. It has many modern buildings, all monuments to The Babe. The chief industry of its busy little shops is the working in mother of pearl. Men, women and children toil at this dusty trade. The shells are brought from the Red Sea, and are worked into beadstrings, such as every Moslem gentleman carries in lieu of a cane, and into buttons and souvenirs for travellers.

A strong European tinge is noticed in the faces and bearing of these Bethlehem people, for most of them can claim the blood of the Crusaders in their veins. The head-dress of the women seems to have been borrowed from Europe of the Middle Ages. Their bodices, embroidered in dark stuffs, are distinctive wherever seen. The enterprise of the people is shown by the fact that they are emigrating in such large numbers to America.

The site of the manger is covered by the present Church of the Nativity, an unimposing agglomeration of buildings which testifies to sectarian strife, and not to the grandeur of the supreme event here enacted. On every side the visitor finds evidences of controversy. The Greek Catholics, the Roman Catholics and the Armenians control the property jointly, and to keep them from flying at each other's throats there is ever a Turkish military guard upon duty at the Manger—a Moslem to keep the Christians from warring at the cradle of the Prince of Peace! From the grotto containing the manger itself—probably an authentic site—to the altars of the separate sects, all is tawdry and unimposing. One turns with relief to the fresh air, saying as he emerges, as was said at the empty tomb, "He is not here; He is risen."

The Twentieth Century and the Star.

There are many more Christmasy places upon earth than Bethlehem at the present time. There are thousands of homes where Christmas is more fittingly kept than upon the site of the inn that was anciently overcrowded. Hundreds of western communities are truer to the Christmas type than is Bethlehem. Having seen the grotto in the Bethlehem church that is marked by a golden star, and the hills where the shepherds slept, and the village upon the Tigris from which the Magi are reputed to have come, and, what is more illuminating, having spent last Christmas eve in a Syrian Khan far liker to the one that sheltered Mary and the Babe than any that may be found in Bethlehem today, I feel that the Christmas spirit is the possession of no one place, and that there is today deep need that it should return to the Christmas site, to bring the place of Jesus to this strife-torn spot.

Really, it is far more exhilarating to observe how this western world is keeping Christmas all the year round. Here society is seriously bent upon working out the angel message into actual life. A few days ago I heard John Mitchell, in the course of a debate, read a list of the organizations with which he is connected, and all were in the spirit of Christmas.

They stood for world betterment and peace. From the organization for the promotion of child-welfare to the courts of arbitral justice, they all looked toward the great Christ-goal of human brotherhood. Where there is any expression of the love of man to man, there shines the gleam of the Bethlehem star. The eleemosynary institutions of our time, from the juvenile court to the door of hope for discharged prisoners, or from the soup kitchen to the revival meeting, all express the spirit of Christmas. It would be unfortunate if we should concentrate our thought upon Bethlehem of Judea to the exclusion of a realization of how Bethlehem has come into our midst today.

The World's Quest of Christmas

Romantic as is the journey of the Wise Men to Bethlehem, it is not more so than the present-day quest of mankind for the new reign which Christmas represents. As readers of this column know, I have been upon the trial of the world's unrest, to the remotest corners of earth. For more than a year I have studied at close range this marvelous present-day phenomenon. And what is the essence of this multiform agitation and ferment and discontent, except a groping after the realization of those ideals which were first proclaimed at Christmas? Even as the East, embodied by the Magi, sought a new king in the West, so the Orient today is in eager quest of a new reign of those ideals which Jesus incarnated and preached; and which are inadequately expressed by the modern phrase, "Liberty, equality, fraternity, justice."

The world is restless under the dominion of selfishness, oppression, ignorance, poverty and strife. It wants to dwell in peace and in brotherhood, with freedom to cultivate the individual man at his best. It wants to restore his crown to man, so that the poor, and the lowly may have the chance which God designed for all.

"For lo the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world shall send back the song
Which now the angels sing."

Christmas Peace for All the World.

This would be a heedless keeping of Christmas which did not make recognition of the glorious vision, newly come to the peoples of earth, that world peace is a practical political possibility. President Taft has sent an electric thrill about the earth by his proposals for treaties of arbitration between the great nations. Peace has suddenly been lifted up into the realms of practical statesmanship. It is no longer a theory for dreamers, but a program for the chancellories of the great nations. It has the right of way in the world's thinking; and the present generation will probably see the angels' message more nearly realized in the affairs of nations than our fathers thought possible for centuries to come.

This is a good time to remind ourselves that whoever works for peace is doing the work of Christ. This program which now the statesmen discuss should be peculiarly the province of the Christian church. That she has lagged so long is her reproach. Now it is high time to get into the company of the Christian heralds, and proclaim peace for all the earth.

A Vision of Christmas Trees.

The memories of Christmas trees throng the musing mind at this season. There are the great forests of evergreens yet uncut; the trainloads of trees in city freight yards, weeks before Christmas; the tinselled, decorated trees of many happy homes; the twig of evergreen which the German exiles who toil amid the ruins of old Assyria, along the Tigris river, preserve from year to year—varied are the memories of Christmas trees one has seen.

Be it remembered, however, that the real Christmas tree, the one truest to type, is the tree that was planed, 33 years after the Birth at Bethlehem, upon a hill called Golgotha. Calvary's tree represents the working out to an ultimate conclusion of the Christmas ideal. There it stands, the eternal emblem of sacrifice. It is God's sign of giving, the self-surrendering spirit of Christmas.

'Oh, don't you think that giving,
Is just the best of living?'

carols the child about the house at Christmastide.

In the Calvary spirit, of self-crucifixion for the sake of others, Christmas is kept indeed. All around us are sin and shame and lovelessness; when we give ourselves to the redemption of these, making life sweeter and happier for even the least of all the persons whom we may touch, and not shrinking from the worst, we are keeping Christmas in Christ's way.

Varietie

France had 114,283 silkw
growers last year.

Our farms, exclusive of buildi
are valued at $28,770,000.

The regulation step of the Bri
army is 120 steps to the minute.

There are reckoned to be 160,0
000 head of cattle in the world.

Gold coin is nine parts pure
one part copper by weight.

Europe learned from China the
of papering the walls or rooms.

There is a spring in Nevada wh
waters taste like chicken soup.

A female goat lives on an aver
ten years and gives a quart of m
a day.

The Brazilian India rubber gath
averages 16 pounds of sap a day.

Hellerau, Dresden's garden
inhabitants.

The shoes worn by Alpine mo
taineers have steel soles with e
projecting points.

In Mexico cigarettes are ten fo
cent. The government imposes
tax on native tobacco.

That man may clothe himself
their fur, seventy million animals
killed every year.

School furniture is needed
Jamaica because of the increase
pupils during recent years.

Laundry work costs little in R
sia, but the work done is poor
the finishing is crude.

The water mains of London agg
gate six thousand miles—twice
width of the Atlantic ocean.

French army authorities are
turbed over the great decrease
the number of horses in Paris.

The population of Paris, within
circle of fortifications, is 2,847,0
Suburbs and all, it is 4,000,000.

During the year 1909, 322 pers
were killed and 17,890 injured
vehicles in the streets of London.

An immense asylum for the ins
has been built in Jerusalem by
movement that started in Berlin.

A steel cane that can be tak
apart and rebuilt into a substant
stool in half a minute is a Fre
novelty.

There is an unusual dema
throughout Canada for sport
goods, especially those used
hockey and golf clubs.

Coaling and equipping the sh
passing through the Panama canal
expected to become an immense bu
ness.

It is estimated that the meteo
dust falling upon the earth from ou
spaces amounts to 100 tons a day.

A tiny storage battery driven el
tric fan has been perfected to
placed inside a top hat to keep
wearer's head cool.

An English inventor has copied
old idea in the history of telepho
by designing a transmitter shap
like the human ear.

The latest police census of Lond
shows 10,479 boys under fourte
engaged in street trades, of wh
4,931 are newsboys.

The French government propo
to place the great concessiona
railway companies under more dir
state control.

An attachment for converting e
glasses or spectacles into automob
goggles has been invented by
Philadelphian.

The South African Railway co
pany has reserved 30,000 acres
land for planting with eucaly
trees for ties.

According to the calculation of
French statistician, the number
books published throughout the wo
is 128,530 each year.

All the oars used in the Briti
navy are made of white spruce grow
in the Queen Charlotte islands,
the coast of British Columbia.

A double barreled telescope, to pe
mit two persons to view the sa
object at the same time, has been i
vented by a Swiss optician.

Nearly a million and a half diffe
ent brands of cigars are made. Y
at the outside there are but 150 di
ferent kinds of tobacco grown.

Cordwood made from sawdust a
shavings is the idea of a planing m
man. The material is compressed
steel plungers into dies.

The family horse was shedding h
coat. "Oh, mamma," exclaimed sma
Sadie, "do come and look at old Do
bin. I believe he's all moth eaten!"

It has been suggested to the Britis
local government that cans of co
densed skimmed milk should be l
beled: "Skimmed milk; unfit for i
fants."

Chemical fire apparatus which ca
be carried on horseback where road
are poor or lacking altogether ha
been patented by a North Carolin
inventor.

While all other articles of diet co
a great deal more in London now tha
they did in 1900, yet rice and potatoe
are a great deal cheaper than the
were.

The girl "mayoress" of Newpor
Isle of Wight," on her first officia
appearance, "wore her new chain o
office, made a little speech and wa
presented with a bouquet."

An ingenious Pennsylvanian ha
patented a hat trimming machin
which unreels ribbon, sews it in plac
and cuts it off automatically when
hat has been trimmed.

Two American products in whic
there is an increasing trade in Man
churia are kerosene oil and cigarettes
The value of cigarette importatio
increased from $67,600 in 1909 t
$86,373 in 1910.

An altar, duly consecrated by ec
clesiastics, has been installed upon a
automobile, the object being to pro
mote missionary work in the rura
districts of England. It is a portabl
church.

Rubinstein once declared to som
one that he was once descended from
one of the crusaders who accompan
ied Richard Coeur de Lion to Pales
tine. "On the piano, presumably,
was the smiling response.

An automatic stabilizer for aero
planes with which the French army
is experimenting utilizes a movabl
pressure plate, connected with com
pressed air mechanism, for manipu
lating the elevating planes.

Talleyrand's conservatism was sum
med up by a witty compatriot, Paul
de Courrier, who declared that i
Talleyrand had been present at th
creation he would have exclaimed
"Good gracious! Chaos will be de
stroyed!"

In Chicago it has been found nec
essary to enact an ordinance regu
lating the character of electric signs
It is required that all signs shall have
the equivalent of one 16-candle power
lamp to each square foot of area.

$3.50 Recipe Free, For Weak Men

Send Name and Address Today --You Can Have It Free and Be Strong and Vigorous.

I have in my possession a prescription for nervous debility, lack of vigor, weakened manhood, failing memory and lame back, brought on by excesses, unnatural drains, or the follies of youth, that has cured so many worn and nervous men right in their own homes—without any additional help or medicine—that I think every man who wishes to regain his manly power and virility, quickly and quietly, should have a copy. So I have determined to send a copy of the prescription free of charge, in a plain, ordinary sealed envelope to any man who will write me for it.

This prescription comes from a physician who has made a special study of men and I am convinced it is the surest-acting combination for the cure of deficient manhood and vigor failure ever put together.

I think I owe it to my fellow men to send them a copy in confidence so that any man anywhere who is weak and discouraged with repeated failures may stop drugging himself with harmful patent medicines, secure what I believe is the quickest-acting restorative, upbuilding, SPOT-TOUCHING remedy ever devised, and so cure himself at home quietly and quickly. Just drop me a line like this: Dr. A. E. Robinson, 3938 Luck Building, Detroit, Mich., and I will send you a copy of this splendid recipe in a plain ordinary envelope free of charge. A great many doctors would charge $3.00 to $5.00 for merely writing out a prescription like this—but I send it entirely free.

Trusses Like These Are a Crime

Get rid of Straps and Springs and be CURED. Simply write for our free cloth-bound Book of Advice, containing facts which took us **40** years of day-after-day experience to learn. It tells how **290,000** people were benefited and cured in a simple and inexpensive way. Book explains why drugstores should not be allowed to sell their misery-making trusses. Explains the dangers of operation and why it is no longer necessary. Exposes the humbug "discoveries," "appliances," "plasters," etc., and puts you on guard against throwing money away.

Book tells how the wonderful Cluthe Self-Massaging Pad cures rupture by strengthening the weakened muscles while holding continuously with ease--**Sent on 60 days' trial** to prove it--how it is waterproof--no leg-straps--no body-spring--how it ends all expense on account of rupture. **4000** Public Endorsements sent with the book.

After you have read this book you'll know more about your condition than if you had gone to a dozen doctors. You'll know how to get immediate relief without risking a penny. When writing, please give our box number.

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SECRETS FOR WOMEN Send 2c stamp for catalog of RUBBER NECESSITIES, TOILET GOODS AND REMEDIES. **FAIRBANK SUPPLY HOUSE, G 3, 60 Wabash Ave., Chicago**

U. S. WHEAT CROP IS BETTER

Eight-Year Average Exceeds Russia's by 3,000,000 Tons.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The Russian grain crop is so large an element of the world supply that an erroneous impression in regard to its out-turn would vitiate any conclusion as to the prospective condition of the world's grain market during the crop year involved, according to a statistical report on the cereal crops of Russia just prepared by the United States department of agriculture.

"Occasionally a Russian wheat crop exceeds the wheat crop of the United States for the same year," says the report, "but on an average for an eight-year period—1901 to 1908—the American crop is found, on the basis of 60 pounds per bushel, to have been about 20,000,000 tons a year against a Russian crop not much exceeding 17,-000,000 tons."

For some reason no mention of the name of General William T. Sherman is contained on the walls or the pillars of fame in the national cemetery at Arlington, though the structure is supposed to carry all the names of the great leaders of the civil war.

DYNAMITE JOBS QUOTED AT $200

Detectives at Federal Inquiry Tell of Letters Written to McNamaras.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 15.—Probing into papers taken from the offices of the International Bridge and Structural Iron Workers since the arrest of John J. McNamara, the convicted secretary-treasurer, and the subsequent finding of stores of explosives in the basement of the building, was continued by the federal grand jury today in its investigation of the dynamite plots.

Mrs. Andrew J. Hull, of Kimball, Neb., once bookkeeper of the union, and other clerks who worked under McNamara were again questioned by District Attorney Charles W. Miller. Their appearance indicated the intention of the government to begin the inquiry at a point from the inside, which would disclose the identity of all those remotely and directly responsible for explosions.

In investigating charges that men in many cities were implicated in the dynamiting, it was necessary that stenographers of the iron workers' association identify as authentic letters received or sent by officials of the union.

Private detectives advised the government authorities that some of the letters indicated men in various states had written to McNamara, asking him what the cost of a "job" would be McNamara would reply, according to this information, that the "fee" would be $200 and the expenses, $50 to be forwarded to him.

All through the confession of Ortie E. McManigal, run statements setting out that he was paid after each "job," not in the city where the explosion occurred, but by a messenger from McNamara. To show that plans were laid for dynamiting by many others than McNamara and that he conducted a "clearing house" for them was the task set for the investigators.

MONEY FOR POOR COMES FROM THE PEN

Chicago, Dec. 14.—A $10 bill given by a convict in the Wisconsin state penitentiary at Waupon to be used in buying a Christmas present for at least one poor family, was today received in a letter sent to a morning newspaper here by Daniel Woodward, warden of the prison.

The prisoner sent a few instructions regarding the manner in which he wanted the money spent. He would like to have a Christmas tree provided out of the money and the balance to be expended for a Christmas dinner and presents for the children.

BARBER FINED FOR HOLDUP

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Charles Berryman, a barber employed in a shop owned by William O'Brien at 78 East Twelfth street, was fined $10 and costs by Judge Sheridan E. Fry yesterday for trying to be clever at the expense of J. P. Nalley, a farmer of Clarence, Ia., who had come here with his wife to visit the stock show and who had dropped into O'Brien's place to get a shave and a hair cut.

When Nalley had come out from under the spell of Berryman's deft hands the latter told him this was his bill:

Hair cut	$0.25	Head massage	$0.35
Shave	.15	Face massage	.35
Shampoo	.75	Shoes shined	.10
Hair singed	.25	Bottle hair tonic	1.00

Nalley testified that he told Berryman he had only $3 with him, but that the barber returned 5 cents of that for car fare, so he could go to his hotel and get the balance.

"He said I looked like an honest feller. He was sure I would come back," said the farmer. "I came back all right, but I had a policeman with me. I didn't want to get all those things I got, but that barber feller he just kept right on a-goin'."

Judge Fry ordered Berryman to return the dollar paid by Nalley for the bottle of hair tonic.

FEDERAL JUSTICE SPENT BUSY YEAR

Wickersham Reports Much Done on Trusts, Peonage and White Slavery.

Washington, Dec. 14. — Pursuing President Taft's recommendation that an executive bureau be created to supervise corporations chartered under a federal incorporation act, Attorney General Wickersham, in his annual report submitted to congress today, suggests that the bureau of corporations be raised to that dignity, even in the absence of the proposed federal incorporation statute.

This branch of the department of commerce and labor, the attorney general urges, should be brought into closer relation with his department and adds that it might well be "availed of as the nucleus for an administrative board under whose supervision consolidations or mergers for lawful purposes might be formed."

In enforcing the Sherman anti-trust law, the attorney general points out, the department of justice and the courts are confronted by economic, rather than legal, problems when it comes to working out methods of disintegration after a corporation has been declared an illegal combination. The department enlisted the assistance of the bureau of corporations in the dissolution of the tobacco trust, and it would be of great value to the legal branch of the government, Mr. Wickersham says, if the functions of the bureau should be so enlarged that it could be called upon officially to make investigations and report its conclusions with respect to plans for the voluntary or enforced disintegration of monopolistic combinations.

Fines Paid Expenses.

The attorney general reviews the record of a year of intense activity in federal prosecutions and points out that the department of justice financially sustained itself as the result of the contribution of $4,204,115 to the United States treasury in the shape of fines collected, customs duties recoveries, etc. The expense of the department, including the office of the attorney general, all of the district attorneys and assistants throughout the country aggregated $3,223,733.

Emphasizing his satisfaction with the decree of the New York circuit court in the tobacco trust dissolution, the attorney general has this to say of independent tobacco interests who have criticised the plan of disintegration:

"Competitors of the existing combination were eager to compel the imposition of terms or conditions of the disintegration which would have made a solvent, successful business readjustment impossible, would have brought about a receivership of the property and forced judicial sales, resulting in great financial loss, not only to those interested in the combination, but to the business interests of the country at large, and in the end would have benefited only the very individuals who had been dominant in the formation of the combination, as they are possessed of means ample enough to profit by the ruin which would have followed. In my opinion, the plan which has been approved by the court will accomplish the objects of the law."

Urges Prison Provision.

Forty-six prosecutions for illegal discriminations and rebates were instituted against railroads during the year. The attorney general urges the amendment of the 28-hour law governing the railroad transportation of live stock by imposing an imprisonment penalty for its violation.

The vigorous enforcement of the customs laws, the attorney general says, resulted in the recovery of $2,-120,000 in duties out of which the government had been defrauded.

The white slave traffic act, now a year and a half old, is having a salutary effect, in the judgment of Mr. Wickersham. The statute was diligently enforced throughout the country, he avers, with most satisfactory results. One hundred and forty-five prosecutions were had, resulting in 76 convictions, 14 acquittals and 10 nolle prossed or otherwise discontinued. Forty-five cases are pending. Sentences imposed ranged from a few months in jail to 10 years in the penitentiary.

While prosecutions against peonage, the attorney general says, have done much to stamp it out, the practice still appears to be quite extensively carried on in some of the southern states. He suggests the strengthening of the statutes.

Finds Clerks Irregular.

Mr. Wickersham calls attention to the discovery of extensive irregularities and in some cases actual dishonesty in offices of clerks of the United States courts. No effective reform, he declares, can be accomplished until the power of removing the clerks is taken from the judges and lodged in the President and the clerks paid a specific sum, instead by the fee system.

Declaring that many of the jails where federal prisoners are confined are wholly unsuitable for the detention of human beings and "are shocking breeding places of crime," the attorney general recommends the appointment of a commission to inquire into the conditions. This commission also would consider the general treatment of juvenile and first offenders.

GIRL BABIES BORN TALLER

Boston, Dec. 18.—Girl babies are now born taller, and with much more vitality than used to be the case, according to an authority in this city. Miss Charlotte W. Dunn, assistant superintendent of a hospital here patronized by the stork to the extent of 3,000 babies a year, says:

"We have noticed that girl babies are getting taller and that they are appearing in this world lately with more real vitality than formerly. The boy babies continue on the average both in weight and height."

Wilson Sums Up Valuable News for the Farmers

The recent annual report of the secretary of agriculture has a series of short paragraphs of much importance. They are reprinted below:

When the cattle-fever tick is destroyed in the southern states the country will get much more meat from that section, and the producing of it will build up the farms there.

The hog-cholera serum developed in this department is successful where it is properly made and applied.

Would it be asking too much of our universities to have them educate more plant pathologists and road engineers?

Every country in the world that has diseased plants that cannot be sold at home can ship them to us. This results in great loss. The chestnut disease here is an illustration.

After years of experimentation we find we can grow Egyptian cotton in southern California and bulbs in the state of Washington.

The finest dates from the Sahara desert succeed in our southwest.

No seed is sent out from this department without being tested for germination condition.

The schools want more of our publications than we have to give them.

Seven hundred and fifty million dollars is the best estimate for poultry products this year.

The day is not far distant when we will cease to import potash.

We are sending explorers to the ends of the earth for new plants—and getting them.

The phosphates are abundant in our country for all possible uses. Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Idaho may be mentioned as depositories.

If good roads from the producer to the consumer were general, the benefits to both would be considerable.

When a foreign insect invades, our scientists seek its enemy where it came from. The natural enemy of the boll weevil was an ant that could not endure our winters, but the native ant is getting busy.

The experiment stations of the several states are doing better work each succeeding year, the scientists are maturing, and the people are appreciating.

The object lesson in agriculture is the best teacher; we had 60,000 of them at work last year.

Six hundred thousand short tons of beet sugar were made last year in 67 factories. There is an estimated world's shortage of 1,600,000 long tons of sugar this year.

The consumer pays a dollar for food; the farmer gets less than 50 cents for it. Who gets the rest?

All government agencies that conserve public health should be grouped together in one bureau.

The department of agriculture has had success in the southern states through object lessons in the fields, where the best southern farmers in their counties were the instructors. This method should be organized in all the states along lines of greatest necessity.

Our systems of renting land are faulty and result in soil robbing; where the renter cannot provide domestic animals, the owner should arrange to furnish them, so that rotation of crops may be had, and hay and grains may be fed on the farm.

Alaska will some day provide farmers in lower latitudes with grain seeds superior to what they can grow at home.

The corn crop is moving northward by seed selection.

The southern farm boy is showing the way to grow more of all crops on an acre.

Educate the farmer's boy toward a more valuable life on the farm.

Uplift the farm home through the education of the farmer's daughter toward greater usefulness and attractiveness in the farm home.

Save all the liquid fertilizers on the farm, in cisterns, to be applied where crops are to grow; this will recover the greatest farm waste of our times.

There is great promise in the fact that whole classes of graduates of agricultural colleges go back to the farms, having learned how to make them profitable.

Our foresters are learning by experiments how to reforest 30,000 acres in a year; 10 times as much must be planted annually to cover all the bare acres in a generation. It will be done.

There should be publicity regarding the cold storage of foods, through monthly reports to some federal authority that would give them to the press, to the end that the people might know to what extent foods were being withdrawn from consumption.

WOULD GET TAFT OUT

Powerful Force Works to Secure Withdrawal.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—A powerful political force is at work, silently, to bring about the retirement of President Taft from the race for renomination in the interest of Roosevelt, if the colonel will accept or, should that prove impossible, then to promote the nomination of Justice Hughes.

The center of the movement is under the capitol dome. One-third of the senators are to be re-elected and this political feature is involved in the presidential race next year.

Republicans who are to be re-elected want a presidential candidate who will strengthen the ticket. Taft, they concede, will not. Eastern Republicans, especially the New England contingent, want Hughes. The middle west is for Roosevelt.

Republican members of the house, who, of course, are up for re-election are gloomy over the prospect of going out to political battle under Taft's leadership.

Associate Justice Hughes was waited on a few days ago by a national Republican leader of reactionary tendencies. He went at the instance of the gloomy congress contingent who are worried over next year's outlook.

"Justice, you are the only Republican that can be elected next year," said the visitor. "You must consent. You can be nominated. Taft cannot be elected. I doubt if he can be nominated."

"What's the matter with Roosevelt?" asked Justice Hughes, with a quizzical smile. "There are a lot of us who would rather lose with Taft as a candidate than succeed with Roosevelt, for to win with Roosevelt we lose as Republicans." Justice Hughes declined positively to permit the use of his name as a candidate.

To another man who called on a like mission recently Justice Hughes is reported to have said: "I will not permit my name to be used so long as President Taft remains a candidate."

WHAT THE IMPERIAL DURBAR MEANS TO PEOPLE OF INDIA

Significance of Today's Magnificent Ceremony Lies in the Hold It Gives England Over the Imaginations of the Millions Whom It Governs.

An important Durbar demands space enough for a liberal display of Oriental magnificence and for the impression to be produced on large crowds. It also demands reasonably settled conditions of weather in order to be thoroughly effective—conditions which are not to be found in the cloudy atmosphere of Western Europe. Even in India the Durbar forms no part of the effective machinery of the administration of British India, writes Sir Thomas H. Holdrick in the London Graphic. It is only where the government of India as a paramount power comes into contact with self-governed native states or frontier tribes, and when it is desirable to produce an impression on a great mass of Indian peoples by a method which is recognized as a standard and historic institution of their own, that we borrow from the native states their forms and their formulae, and reproduce in the prosaic present the ponderous effects which have made famous the magnificence of the Indian past. In the native states the case is different. There the Durbar is just a part of ordinary administrative procedure, and a very noteworthy part too. The Durbar does not imply so much the meeting of the state council, as the occasion of announcing the decisions of that council to the people. It is court to which all degrees of humanity under the laws of that state are free, and from time immemorial in the east it has been a sort of ultimate court of appeal.

Formality and state are the chief attributes of a Durbar. A tribe of ragged border folk, as proud and as truculent as any border Scotsman of two centuries ago, has no Durbar of its own. But the picturesque form of open-air council called "panchayet" to a certain extent takes its place. Gathered on the boulder-strewn hillsides like a flock of crows, with the blue of heaven above them and a whole wide world of grey weather-worn mountains surrounding, the chiefs and elders of the tribe sit in solemn conclave, and, with the voices of patriarchs repeating the psalms, give their reasons for the faith that is in them. These local Durbars dealing with the frontier tribes and those which form part of native state administration are entirely Ind'an, and entirely useful. Nothing that the British could devise could take their place. They are part of the hereditary and decorative paraphernalia of the departed glory of magnificent Mogul rule—a rule which was, after all, well suited to the tastes of the people who endured it.

The antiquity of the institution is past finding out. We should judge from the writings of Greek authors that there were Durbars in the days of Megasthenes and Chandragupta; but coming to more modern times, the last Durbar that was of any significance to England was held in honor of Sir Thomas Roe as ambassador at the court of Jehangir in 1615. In 1858 a great Durbar was held at Allahabad, when the royal proclamation was issued announcing that the queen had assumed the government of India; but the queen was not there, and there was not, on that occasion, the display of such a passionate outburst of loyalty as distinguished the reception of Edward Prince of Wales in 1875, which may be said to have culminated with the historic proclamation of the Queen as Empress of India at the great Durbar held on Jan. 1, 1877, on the plain behind the ridge at Delhi. Thenceforward was the queen enshrined in the hearts and imaginations of millions of the peoples of India as a living incarnation of the principles of justice, truth and mercy; accessible to prayer and in very truth an anointed ruler. Still, they had not seen her, and it may be doubted whether by the great mass of Indian inhabitants she was not regarded rather as goddess than woman; whilst the subsequent Durbar held on the occasion of her jubilee in 1887 served but to intensify previous impressions of her great beneficence, but also unfortunately, of her great aloofness. The next great occasion was the coronation Durbar in 1903. Then indeed was there a live prince come amongst them whom they had either seen or heard about. Well known to many of the leading princes in the land, and deeply reverenced, he received at once from the aristocracy of India a full tribute of loyalty and devotion; but the significance of the occasion was perhaps lost on the masses, who regarded the Durbar as a formal and perfunctory institution conducted by the sirkar for political purposes; so that it failed to bring home to many of them the necessity for replacing the old ideal of the Great Mother watching over their babies and homes, with a new ideal of beneficent surveillance by the late genial king.

Reams might be written about the magnificence of the Imperial Durbar. Perhaps with its setting of Indian climate and color it is the most magnificent spectacle that the world has to show. The object of it is to impress a great multitude of many peoples with the strength and glory of the Imperial Crown, and these people are to be reached for the most part only by the outward and visible signs of imperial greatness. It is not a small matter to impress the imaginations of chiefs and rulers in India whose hereditary traditions are all gilded with the glamor of great personal wealth. To some of them it is the only practical method of appeal. We must pass over the details; the blazing glory of gold and color, the braying of trumpets and banging of guns, the march of elephants, the swaying, surging crowds and the glint and glitter of arms. We must also be discreetly silent on the subject of pinchbeck gilding and tawdry raggedness where the hosts of native retainers are concerned, and say nothing of unworthy emulation for the highest places in Durbar (not always confined to the native community), and such jealousies and heartburnings as, not so long ago, would have meant trouble in the land. What we want to get at is the significance of the great ceremonial and its effect on the country.

First in importance, no doubt, is its influence on the great and splendid body of hereditary chiefs and rulers who form the aristocracy of India. Of the general beneficial effect there can be little doubt, and so we need say no more about it. The Bengali baboo, sleek and greasy, with close-cropped head and white raiment, is always in evidence, but not to the extent that he would have been had the Durbar been held in Calcutta. He does chatter sedition, because of the Punjabis, and it is the Punjabi crowd, Sikhs and Mohammedans, who swell the multitude chiefly. Fine, stalwart Sikhs and grave upstanding Mohammedan gentlemen, the backbone of our strength in India, receive with full reverence and immeasurable pride the message that the King delivers to them direct. Thus perhaps one-sixth per cent (or less) of India's population will be at the great Durbar.

How about the other ninety-nine and five-sixths per cent in their country villages and jungles, over whose heads rumors of wars and of political strife pass like the passing wind? Will they think anything about it? Will they care? From the sun-cracked ridges of the northwest, through the waste scrub of the Gondwana jungles, to the uttermost corner of Cape Comorin (where the fisher-boy ever stands fishing stark naked under his umbrella) will the tale spread, by ways and means we know not, of how the emperor looked and spoke. "He was there himself. The splendour of his countenance was as the sun: at the sound of his voice the multitude swayed and wept;" and then the old men sitting under the village peepul tree will repeat to the old woman the signs and portents which accompanied his birth; and the chocolate babies rolling in the dust will cry, "Why this is our Krishna!" The Indian villager is nothing if not imaginative. His imagination presents him with all that we find in art, science and literature. Gradually, no doubt, will this living emperor assume some of the attributes of their many-limbed gods—but the attributes will be beneficent, whilst the visible personality will probably be blue and repulsive (as was the representation of his immortal grandmother), and he will be a veritable and daily power in many a jungle home.

DIRTY EGGS MONEY LOSERS

Average Farmer Is Too Careless in Handling Egg Product.

While there are a few egg producers who take the best of care of their product, the average farmer considers the eggs produced on the farm a by-product and makes very little provision for their care, aside from gathering them. A large loss is caused by dirty eggs, the number being enormous and according to the estimate of Secretary Wilson, of the department of agriculture, this money loss to the farmers in the United States amounting to about $5,000,000 annually.

This loss is very largely brought about by not gathering the eggs often enough. In wet weather more dirty eggs are found than at any other time. This is caused by the fact that the hen's feet are often covered with mud or other filth, and in going on the nest to lay she soils the eggs already in the nest.

An insufficient number of nests is often the cause of many of the dirty eggs found. Eggs are laid on the ground and around the hay and straw stacks, and becoming stained, are classed as "dirties." Again when too many eggs are allowed to remain in a nest some are broken and many of the others become sweared with broken yolks. This condition is often brought about by allowing the broody hens to use the same nests with the layers. On a farm where one nest to every four hens is provided and the nests are kept clean and well bedded, it is found that very few dirty eggs are produced.

After gathering the eggs, care should be taken not to put them where they will become heated, or near oil, onions, or other vegetables, as they readily absorb odors.

Although dirty eggs may be perfectly fresh, they invariably sell as "seconds," and when but a few dirty eggs are mixed with an otherwise fresh, clean lot, they materially decrease the price of the clean eggs.

A few months ago the Chinese government began to erect a modern printery that will require a total expense of $2,000,000. Construction of the building and installation of the printing plant have been intrusted to American architects.

HANG PREACHER IN GEORGIA THEATRE

Authorities Agreed That It Looked Like Rain — No Day for Outdoor Work.

Jackson, Ga., Dec. 15.—"This is no day for an outdoor hanging," said the sheriff of Butt county at 8 a. m. as he squinted toward dark, low hanging clouds. "There'll be rain 'fore 12 o'clock."

hereupon the sheriff decreed that Rev. William M. Turner should be hanged in the opera house. He was.

The sheriff of Butt county, of which Jackson is the capital, last night had intended to hang the negro preacher in the jail yard.

"But the jail yard is no place for a hanging when it's raining," he said at 8 a. m.

Throughout the morning, carpenters worked on the stage of King's opera house, which faces the square in the center of the town. They were erecting the gallows to which the preacher-murderer was to be led at noon.

Friends Use Reserved Seats.

Shortly before noon, the friends and relatives of the condemned man were ushered to reserved seats in the theatre. They occupied the chairs of the front rows and all the boxes. Then Turner, handcuffed to two deputy sheriffs, was brought from the jail where he has been under constant guard for several weeks. Only a few persons other than the county authorities, the friends and the immediate relatives of Turner were permitted to witness the execution.

Turner was taken into the opera house through the stage entrance. He walked with steady tread and the two deputies who accompanied him say that not once did he tremble as he stepped toward the gallows which stood under the proscenium arch. In the glare of the footlights, the doomed minister mounted the steps of the gibbet. From the gallows platform he made an address.

"My last message to you," he said in a clear voice, intoning his words as if he were preaching from the pulpit of his Baptist church, "is to be one of warning against the use of whisky."

For several minutes he talked from the gallows delivering a lecture on temperance which he had carefully prepared the last few days allotted him by law. Then he said:

Confesses His Guilt.

"Before you, I want to confess my guilt of the crime with which I have been charged."

As the preacher ended his confession, the sheriff and his deputies arranged the noose and the black cap was drawn down quickly. A moment later the trap was sprung. Turner's neck was broken and physicians, two minutes afterward, pronounced him dead. Slowly the spectators filed from the theatre.

"See," said the sheriff as he left the opera house. "I knew it would be raining at 12 o'clock."

But here in Jackson there are hundreds who believe that the sheriff's reason for conducting the execution in the theatre was not so much to escape the rain as to escape mob violence. Sentiment against the preacher has been high since his arrest on a charge of murder and it is currently reported that plans had been laid to seize the prisoner as he was taken into the jail yard.

"Plain hanging is too good for him," is said to have been the expression used when the alleged plot was framed.

Turner was convicted of the murder of Jesse Singley, a wealthy cotton planter. He incited the race riot near here in which Singley was killed.

Three sons of the executed preacher are in the Jackson jail awaiting trial in connection with the crime for which their father today was hanged in the opera house.

URGE JOHN D. FOR PRESIDENT

E. W. Howe and Kansas Business Men Suggest Rockefeller.

Atchison, Kas., Dec. 14.—The Globe prints a suggestion from business men of Vermilion, a small town 60 miles west of here, urging John D. Rockefeller for president.

E. W. Howe, former editor of the Globe, in the December number of his magazine indorses Rockefeller for the office of chief executive.

The Vermilion men's statement says:

"Believing the interests of the people will best be served by having as chief executive a man with recognized business capacity rather than by intrusting the reins of government to the hands of political theorists who have never demonstrated their ability to do anything but frighten the people with direful noises, we hereby suggest as candidate for president in 1912 the name of John D. Rockefeller."

In the Australian commonwealth house of representatives the bill providing for the construction of a transcontinental railway from Kalgoorlie, in western Australia, to Port Augusta, in south Australia, was read a second time without a division.

MAIL ORDER MARKET

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

These advertisements are full of interest to everybody. Over a million people see these columns every week. Read them carefully and write at once to every advertiser whose proposition appeals to you.

RATE—60 cents per agate line (count seven words to a line). Cash with order. No advertisement accepted for less than two lines or more than twenty-one lines. Forms close Tuesday morning preceding the date of issue.

HELP WANTED.

500 MEN 20 to 40 years old, wanted at once for electric railway motormen and conductors; $60 to $100 a month; no experience necessary; fine opportunity; no strike; write immediately for application blank. Address Box 500, care of Weekly Blade, Toledo, O.

YOU are wanted for government positions—$80 month to commence. Annual vacations. Short hours. No "layoffs." Common education sufficient. Over 12,000 appointments coming. Influence unnecessary. Send postal immediately for free list of positions open, with description. Franklin Institute, Dept. R 32, Rochester, N. Y.

AGENTS WANTED.

EARN $10 to $15 a week and hold your position besides. No canvassing. We, as manufacturers of patented just in season specialties, have new easy mail order plans to keep factories busy. We furnish everything. Large profits; small capital; experience unnecessary. If you are one of the want-to-go-ahead kind, write for our most modern plans. Sworn statements. J. M. Pease Mfg. Co., 285 Pease Bldg., Michigan St., Buffalo, N. Y.

If You Can and Will Make Good selling Hot Water Wall Finishes, supplemented by our make of Varnishes, Paints and Framed Mirrors, write fully to Schrader, Whittick & Co., Chicago.

LINEN Heel and Toe Guaranteed Hosiery direct from mill to wearer. All styles and qualities. Splendid opportunity for live agents. Customers waiting. Re-orders insure permanent increasing income. Exclusive territory. Credit. C. Parker Mills, 720 Chestnut st., Phila., Pa.

EDUCATIONAL.

BE an impersonator: $30 course $1, Cir. B. free J. C. Snyder Co., Mt. Gilead, O.

FOR SALE—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHECK CATARRH--Stop Snoring--Simple device, comfortably worn, 10c silver. B. Walder, Ironwood, Mich.

SILK Ribbon direct from factory, wholesale prices and samples for 2c stamp; satisfaction guaranteed. D. Curt Cline Silk Mills, Fayetteville, Pa.

FOR SALE—FARMS.

PENNSYLVANIA FARMS for sale. The Robert Patterson Real Estate Agency, Corry, Pa.

IRRIGATED Fruit and Flower Farm at Sacrifice Worth over $20,000, for $11,500, immediate sale. Terms easy. Large house, crops, stock, tools, all goes. Show place of Rio Grande Delta. No snow or ice. Ready. Box 14, Donna, Texas.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM LANDS.

WANTED:--Men to become independent farmers in Eastern North Carolina—the "Nation's Garden Spot." Leads for large profits on small capital. Write for booklet. C. Van Leuven, 817 Southern Bldg., Wilmington, N. C.

CLAIRVOYANT.

CLAIRVOYANT—Locates, finds, tells by mail, concerning all affairs; business a specialty. Enclose 4c stamp. Private readings daily. Prof. Daverkosen, Tallmans Block, Suite 15, Janesville, Wis.

PERSONAL.

LADIES—When delayed or irregular use Triumph Pills, always dependable. "Relief" and particulars free. Write National Medical Institute, Milwaukee, Wis.

Marriage paper mailed free, reliable, best published. Eastern Agency, 69, Bridgeport, Conn.

MARRY—Best plan on earth, sent free; photos of every lady member. THE PILOT, Dept. 39, Marshall, Mich.

GET MARRIED.—Matrimonial paper with advertisements marriageable people from all sections, rich, poor, young, old, Protestants, Catholics, mailed sealed free. The Correspondent, Toledo, Ohio.

MARRY—Book of descriptions mailed sealed free; many wealthy. The Exchange, Box 525. B. H., Kansas City, Mo.

TRY our Velvet Skin Food, Removes pimples, freckles and all imperfections and gives a beautiful rosy complexion. By mail fifty cents. Trial box 10 cents. The Fireside Agency, 21 Prout st., New Haven, Conn.

MARRY—Many wealthy members will marry. All ages. Description free. Reliable Club, Dept. 56, Box 26, Oakland, Cal.

WANTED—More advertisers to know that TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE is a big business getter. Use its columns every issue and get big results. Advertising rates reasonable, circulation guaranteed. Address, Weekly Blade, Toledo, O.

A five-line advertisement, same size and style as the above, will cost only **$3.00** for one insertion in the

Mail Order Market Column of

The Toledo Weekly Blade

You can place your proposition in a **Quarter Million Homes**, from Maine to California, and before over a **Million Readers** every week.

A new business can be started or you can buy, sell or trade by using the Mail Ord. Market of The Toledo Weekly Blade.

FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW.

MAIL ORDER MARKET.

Figure 7 words to a line, each line costing 60c. Send cash with order. Address your letter to Toledo Weekly Blade, Toledo, Ohio.

Gentlemen—I enclose copy of an advertisement to measure...... lines, which I desire you to insert in the MAIL ORDER MARKET. I am sending remittance of $...... to cover the cost of same.

Name ....

Street ....

City and State..

TAFT STARTED INQUIRY

Discovered That President Himself Instituted Federal Investigation.

Los Angeles, Dec. 13.—President Taft personally initiated the government's present investigation, both here and at Indianapolis, in the dynamiting conspiracy in which the McNamara brothers figured.

The President, when he visited Los Angeles on October 16, was apprised by Oscar Lawler, then an assistant of District Attorney John D. Fredericks, of the strong case built up by the latter against the McNamaras.

The President's action was taken 48 hours after he left here. The McNamara trial was then but five days old, but the President was convinced, it is said, of the array of facts gathered by the state and was told that the McNamara brothers were not the only guilty persons.

President Gets Details.

Details of alleged tampering with witnesses and evidence in various parts of the country and the inability of the state authorities here to bring all offenders to justice were related to the President.

It was a final move of the people here to ask the nation's chief executive to assist them in a matters in which they were being balked on many sides.

The local federal authorities had declined to take any steps in the matter, pending orders from Washington, and District Attorney Fredericks was unable to go to Washington to present the facts. It was through Mr. Lawlor, a friend of the president, that the action was instituted.

"I cannot discuss any conversations I have had with the president," declared Mr. Lawlor today.

"Nor can I talk about any of the present phases of the government's investigation."

It can be stated positively, however, that the president was approached by Mr. Lawlor after District Attorney Fredericks vainly sought some other way to bring the federal authorities into the case.

Fredericks knew, he said, that federal statutes had been violated. He knew there was evidence in Indianapolis which was not accessible to the state authorities here except by the intervention of the federal government. He had heard of the willingness of United States District Attorney Miller at Indianapolis to take immediate action, but authorization was needed from some one higher up. Mr. Lawler saw the President and told him the circumstances. According to persons who since have learned the details of that conference, Mr. Lawlor pointed out the number of labor leaders who were involved. The possibility of political injury to the President was taken into consideration.

TELLS ABOUT

50,000 BOOKS FREE BY MAIL

WORTH $10 TO ANY MAN

THE HOME CURE OF MEN'S AILMENTS

Every afflicted man, suffering from any **man disease**, should write quick for his copy of this **Wonderful Free Book**. It tells in plain, strong, simple words how any man can **privately cure himself at home**, of such diseases as Blood Poison (Inherited or Acquired), Vital Weakness, Loss of Power, Nervous Debility, Indiscretions, Organic or Contagious Disease, the After-effects of Fast Living; Stomach, Liver, Kidney and Bladder Troubles. No matter how long you have suffered; how old or stubborn your case; how often you have failed to find relief or how discouraged and down-hearted you are—**this book will be a revelation**—give you new hope—a new lease on life. It is chuck full of good, sound logic and advice—just the things you should know and follow. If you want your **old-time health, strength and manhood** restored, send **RIGHT NOW** for your copy of this **Great Guide to Health**—mailed **FREE**, postpaid in plain, sealed envelope.

DR. JOS. LISTER & CO. 903 Northwestern Bldg. Chicago, Ills., U. S. A.

Special Advice to Women Only

I often receive letters from ladies who say they have been told to write to me by some friend who has cured herself at home by my special method which I explain Free to all women who write. (**This is no C. O. D. scheme.**)

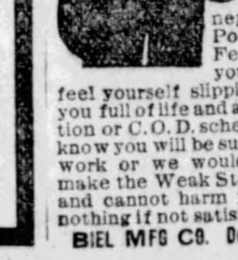
If **you** are in poor health, and have not yet learned of this easy method, **write today,** no matter what your age or condition, and I will tell you just how you can cure yourself at home at a cost of only 12c a week, if you suffer from leucorrhœa or whitish discharges; ulceration, displacement, or falling of the womb; profuse, scanty, painful, or irregular periods; uterine or ovarian tumors or growths; pains in the head, back, or bowels; bearing down feelings, nervousness, creeping feeling up the spine, melancholy, desire to cry, hot flashes, weariness, kidney and bladder weakness; or any ailment peculiar to our sex.

Why risk an operation and pay out hundreds of dollars, when in most cases, you can get the results you desire, for a cost of 12c a week? Remember I willingly send a full explanation Free to all sufferers interested, and leave you to judge for yourself whether you wish to try this successful home method, which any woman or girl can use without interference with other duties. It costs you nothing to learn all about it—merely send me your address, tell me how you suffer if you wish; it will be kept confidential, and I will reply at once in a sealed envelope.

WRITE NOW, while you have the address.

MRS. M. SUMMERS, 129 E. Washington Ave., South Bend, Ind.

DON'T WAIT



Simply send your name and address—NO MONEY—and we mail you a $1 box of Biel's Nerve Tablets on trial. They will prove to be Wonder Workers for Weakness, Nervousness, Lame Back, Kidney Troubles Lack of Steam, Power, Vigor, Vim, Vitality, Old Feeling, Unfit for Marriage. If you are a human derelict or feel yourself slipping that way, let them make you full of life and ambition. This is no prescription or C. O. D. scheme, but a genuine offer. We know you will be surprised with their wonderful work or we would not dare make it. They make the Weak Strong. The Strong Stronger, and cannot harm you. Write today and pay nothing if not satisfactory after a trial.

BIEL MFG CO. Dept. 1238 DENVER, COLO.

The Peace Page.

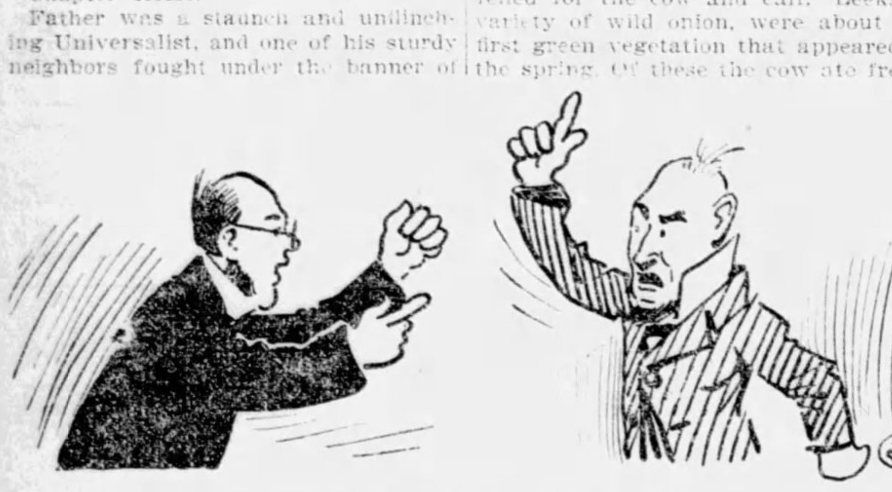
THE BLADE BOOK

By BLADE WRITERS

LOG CABIN DAYS

Some reminiscences of log cabin days in the section of Ohio known as the Western Reserve come to The Blade from J. H. Lang, who will have reached the 86th anniversary of his birth, December 25. Mr. Lang was born in the wilderness, where his father had hewn out a home nest. A duel to the death between religious faiths is among the early recollections of the writer. This makes an interesting contribution in The Blade Book—Chapter XXII.

Father was a staunch and unflinching Universalist, and one of his sturdy neighbors fought under the banner of



A DEADLY DUEL OF FAITHS.

John Wesley. Each was a giant in his own faith. This meant a locking of horns whenever the two men met. Father preached Universalism at his neighbor—let us call him Ezra for short—and Ezra came back at his controversial antagonist with all the strength and spirit of the true Methodist. The religious gladiators met frequently, and eventually there came a time when it could be seen that one or the other must be overwhelmed. Which would it be? The strain of the battle was beginning to tell on both. Father's Universalist heart was weakening and Ezra's Methodism was lacerated. Old faiths began to wobble, and at last the end came—father's Universalism lay prostrate in the dust and Ezra's Methodist doctrine was unrecognizable. It was a remarkable duel, and the result most astonishing. Father's old faith having been completely obliterated, he espoused Methodism, became a local preacher and proclaimed that doctrine among the pioneers ever after. Ezra's Methodist beliefs were annihilated in the prolonged struggle and he gathered Universalism to his bosom. He, too, became a local preacher and was as diligent as his vanquished antagonist in advocating his newly adopted religion. Each disputant had convinced the other that he was wrong.

Mr. Lang writes that friendly Indians were their most frequent visitors in the early days of the Western Reserve country. Wolves and deer roamed the forest unmolested. "We had a few sheep, and to protect them from the wolves we had to shut them in a log pen covered with poles. Our cow foraged in the woods in summer and during the winter lived largely on the brouse from the trees which father felled for the cow and calf. Leeks, a variety of wild onion, were about the first green vegetation that appeared in the spring. Of these the cow ate freely and butter and milk became so tainted that we had to eat of the wild vegetation in self defense.

"Settlers gradually gathered around us, and soon a small school started. I attended this school the summer after I had reached my fourth year. The school was taught by a girl who boarded with us. I remember that at one time she volunteered to milk the cow for mother, bossy being kept in a small enclosure near the house. With a brilliant red shawl over her shoulders, our pretty maid let down the bars and approached the cow. The red shawl was an innovation. The inherited instincts of that cow made her an antagonist of red shawls. Our school teacher made a hasty retreat. In running from the cow she fell into a pool of muddy water and returned to the cabin in a deplorable plight.

"The nearest place where we could obtain groceries and provisions was 20 miles from our home, and when necessity demanded, my father would walk to market and return the same day with such articles as he was able to carry on his back. Very few now living can appreciate the hardships of the men and women who conquered the wilderness."

Our Correspondents

We want our correspondents, who have contributed generously toward the success of the Peace Page, to feel that their letters will be taken care of in the future as in the past. All correspondence will receive the same care and attention. Elizabeth Ayres gave to this department of The Blade, its name, Peace Page, and upon it she bestowed her heart and sweetest sympathies. With the help of you, our friends, it can and will be kept in harmony with her ideas—a medium for the interchange of good cheer and and helpfulness. Mrs. Ayres left hundreds of letters in her desk when she was called away. Many of these bore notations, made to recall to her mind some purpose in connection with their disposition in these columns. Where these mariginal notes can be interpreted her ideas will be faithfully followed. The Peace Page is to continue in its established course—trying to do all the good it can, in all the ways it can, to all the people it can.

"Ohio," writing from Alliance, commends the spirit of the Peace Page and the work it is doing. Her words are full of encouragement, and will be an inspiration to labor for future excellence.

Mrs. C. D., Buchanan, Mich.—We cannot give you the address you ask for. Addresses are not kept. It's our opinion that the California climate would benefit you.

N. F., St. Thomas, Pa.—We thank you in the name of Elizabeth, and can assure you that you would have had her kind sympathy could she have known of your great loss.

Mrs. A. E. F. makes a good suggestion in the Cozy Corner—"Quarantine the blues."

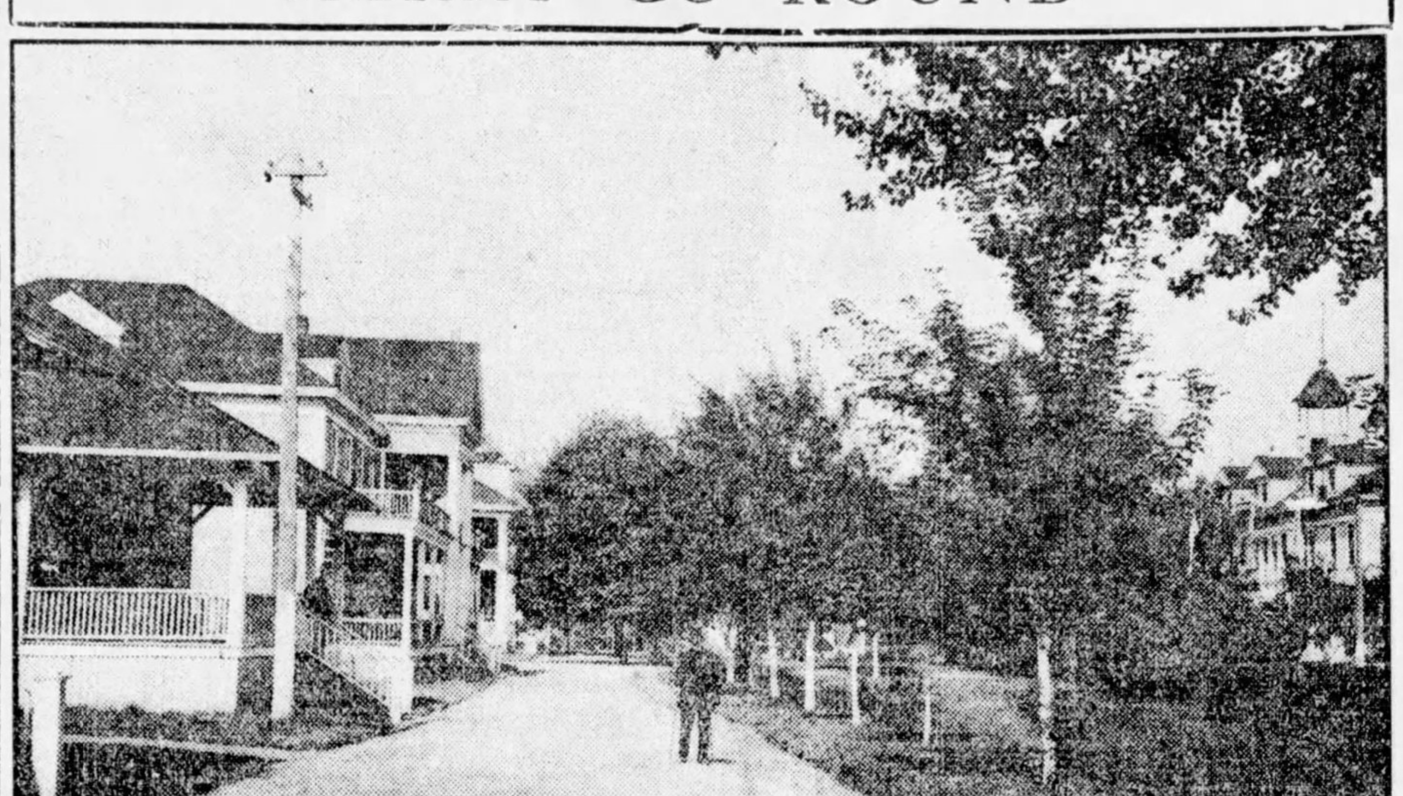
"Well, did you ever try writing while the children are having a big time?" asks Mrs. Cross from West Virginia. But she lets the secret of her happiness leak out farther along in her letter: "I have a good husband and good children. It pays to take time to raise one's children right, then one has less trouble when they are grown."

Wouldn't it be a happy idea for members of the Peace Page fraternity to join in a little whispered prayer for that wandering Oregon boy? Let us hope that he will turn his face homeward and get there before Christmas.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYBODY.

To all correspondents: Please put "Peace Page" on all letters intended for the household department of The Blade.

MERRY-GO-ROUND



The above is a picture of the Washington State Soldiers' Home, at Orting, where the veterans of the state are given deserved attention in their declining years. Orting is a small place, 18 miles south of Tacoma on the Northern Pacific railroad. It is in a lumbering, hop and fruit district. The Peace Page received the view through the kindness of G. S. Humphrey.

TRY TO:
Do all the good you can.
In all the ways you can.
To all the people you can.
Just as long as you can.
Object of the M. G. R.: Mental, moral and social improvement.

LOOK FOR THE BRIGHT SIDE

Dear M. G. R.'s—Here I am asking permission to join your merry circle. Do I hear some one saying "Come in?" Thank you. Speaking of being satisfied, I think each of us should be just as near satisfied with our surroundings as possible, and make the best of everything. Of course, all of us have our troubles and disappointments, but there is a bright side to everything, if we look for it. Let's hear from someone on that, please.

We have taken The Blade almost as long as I can remember, and it is fine company. It comes to our home on Saturday, usually, but sometimes reaches us on Friday. I know two M. G. R.'s personally—Celista Pearl and Brown Eyes from Pennsylvania. Captain Jack and bride, you both have my best wishes.

I am very fond of flowers and birds. Have read some very interesting stories of birds during the past six months. Some were in The Blade. I have three brothers and three sisters and a good mother and father, all living. Now, I must ring off, wishing all a Merry Christmas. If this goes through perhaps I'll come again, sometime.—Belle Burnette.

VACATION IN MEXICO

The progress and enterprise of Mexico was much retarded by the late revolution, which was very hurtful and ruinous in its effects. All business activity ceased as the outcome was uncertain, and freight could not be shipped in many instances, owing to interference with means of transportation, although the outlook for several months was most discouraging. However, the revolution had its benefits as well as its drawbacks, as it brought the country to the notice of the people as nothing else could have done. In fact, it was a great advertisement for Mexico.

Everywhere people were reading and discussing the Mexican trouble and its possible results. As they learned more about the people, their history and manner of life, they became desirous of visiting the neighboring Republic and learning facts at first hand. Officials of the National railway lines of Mexico say the passenger travel for the coming season should be unequalled in the country's history. The tourist agencies of the United States report more inquiries being received than ever before, and that the revolution has started people from all parts of the United States and Canada to Mexico. With this result: Thousands of people from the sterile parts of the west and the bleak and disagreeable northwest and Canada will settle there and make pleasant homes. To anyone familiar with Mexico and its many advantages this is the most natural consequence.

An acre of land in Mexico can be bought for from $3 to $10, and will yield a greater profit than in the states, for in the north the land is unproductive for half of the year—frost-bound and snow-covered and the farmer toils all summer for the winter's supply of stock feed. He works all winter feeding out what he has worked all summer to produce. In Mexico no feed has to be stored for winter; the whole year is one long spring, and you raise two or three crops each year. In the valleys of Southern Mexico, below the frost belt, the land is indescribably rich and will produce almost anything, such as rice, cotton, tobacco, corn, sugar cane, alfalfa, and all kinds of citrus fruits—oranges, lemons, bananas, grapefruit, papaya, mangoes, the aguacate or alligator pear, etc. These are all valuable fruits and found in markets everywhere in the United States, and are used in large quantities in all households. As there are now few sections in the United States where frosts do not occur, Mexico is certain to become a source of supply for such fruits as bananas, limes and grapefruit, since it is impossible to raise them in sections visited by frosts.

In the United States for good fruit land that produces only one crop a year, you have to pay from $150 to $250 per acre. If it is not too wet, too cold, if frosts do not occur, or insects or disease destroy, you raise a crop. In Mexico you locate in a beautiful valley below the Great Plateau, buy land from $3 to $10 per acre, the fertility of which is unequalled in the United States, plant bananas and raise a crop every month of the year. This fruit is not long in bearing, so in 12 or 14 months you have a crop that will net for each acre, a profit of from $150 to $250 and there is never any fear of failure. When producing in full, an acre of bananas should sell easily for $1,000 or more. During the first year, corn planted between the rows of bananas, would bring an immediate and profitable crop. While bananas are a sure crop and bear quicker than almost any other fruit, has no enemies, requires no spraying, if desired you can raise pineapples, limes of grapefruit, etc., with less care and cost of labor than in any other part of the world.

Socially, in Mexico the claims are few, the expense of living practically nothing as compared with this country. There is no winter fuel, nor expensive winter clothes to buy; no effort made to outdo your neighbor in the matter of dress and style of living which is a great drawback to farmers and business men here. There you live a free and happy life in the warm sunshine, free from all ills incident to a changeful climate, delighted with the prospect of a peaceful and prosperous old age. The coming winter will be without question an epoch making period in the settlement of this country by Americans, and as a consequence give new life and energy to the republic.—Miss A.

POETS' CORNER

SONG OF ALL SONGS

Author Unknown.

As you've walked through the town, on a fine summer's day,
The subject I've got, you have seen, I dare say;
Upon fences and railings, wherever you go,
You'll see the penny ballads, sticking up in a row.
The titles to read you may stand for awhile,
And some are so odd, they will cause you to smile;
I noted them down as I read them along,
And I've put them together to make up my song.
There was "Abraham's Daughter," "Going Out Upon a Spree,"
With "Old Uncle Snow," "In the Cottage by the Sea;"
"If Your Foot Is Pretty, Show It," "At "Lannigan's Ball,"
And "Why Did She Leave them," "On the Raging Canawl"?
There was "Bonnie Annie," with "A Jockey Hat and Feather,"
"I Don't Think Much of You," "We Were Boys and Girls Together."
"Do They Think of Me at Home"? "I'll Be Free and Easy Still."
"Give Us Back Our Old Commander," "With the Sword of Bunker Hill."
"When This Cruel War Is Over," "No Irish Need Apply,"
"For Everything Is Lovely and the Goose Hangs High."
"The Young Gal From New Jersey," "Oh! Wilt Thou Be My Bride?"
And "Oft in the Stilly Night," "We'll All Take a Ride."
"Let Me Kiss Him for His Mother," "He's a Gay Gambolier;"
"I'm Going to Fight Mit Sigel," and "De Bully Lager Beer."
"Hunkey Boy Is Yankee Doodle," "When the Cannons Loudly Roar;"
"We Are Coming, Father Abraham, Six Hundred Thousand More!"
"In the Days When I Was Hard Up," "With My Mary Ann,"
"My Johnny Was a Shoemaker," "Or Any Other Man!"
"The Captain With His Whiskers," and "Annie of the Vale,"
Along with "Old Bob Ridley," "A Riding on a Rail!"
"Rock Me to Sleep, Mother," "Going Round the Horn,"
"I'm Not Myself at All," "I'm a Bachelor Forlorn."
"Mother Is the Battle Over?" "What Are the Men About?"
"How Are You, Horace Greeley?" "Does Your Mother Know You're Out?"
"We Won't Go Home Till Morning," with "The Bold Privateer,"
"Annie Lisle" and "Zouave Johnny," "Riding in a Rail-road Keer;"
"We Are Coming, Sister Mary," with the "Folks That Put on Airs,"
"We Are Marching Along" with "The Four-and-Thirty Stars."
"On the Other Side of Jordan," "Don't Fly Your Kite Too High!"
"Jenny's Coming O'er the Green" to "Root, Hog, or Die!"
"Our Union's Starry Banner," "The Flag of Washington,"
Shall float victorious o'er land, from Maine to Oregon!

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING

By Maud L. Betts.

(To be sung to the tune of Marching Thro' Georgia.

Santa Claus is coming—we shall welcome him with glee;
He'll hang a gift for every one upon the Christmas tree;
He'll not forget a single child. How happy we shall be;
For Santa Claus is coming.

CHORUS.

Hurrah! hurrah! for Christmas time is near;
Hurrah! hurrah! the time to all so dear;
We all shall hang our stockings up when Christmas eve is here,
For Santa Claus is coming.

But we must remember all that we must do our part;
Christmas is the time of times, to give with all our heart.
We must always share our joys with those who have no part,
When Santa Claus is coming.

OLD SANTA CLAUS

By M. Nora Boylan.

(To be sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." The verses may be given by a single voice, with the chorus by the school, or selected voices on the platform.)

Old Santa Claus is a jolly man
Who brings us lots of toys, sir;
And none are happier Christmas time
Than little girls and boys, sir.

Have you not seen our Santa Claus,
With hair so snowy white, sir?
Just hang your stocking Christmas eve,—
He'll come that very night, sir.

And if you watch, perhaps you'll see
This friend in furs hid deep, sir.
But I have never seen him once—
I'm always fast asleep, sir.

CHORUS.

Santa Claus is jolly, sir;
Santa Claus is kind, sir;
Santa Claus on Christmas eve
Comes riding on the wind, sir.

A CHILD'S INQUIRY

(Author's Name Not Given.)

How big was Alexander, Pa,
That people called him great?
Was he like old Goliath, tall,
His spear a hundred weight?
Was he so large that he could stand
Like some tall steeple high,
And while his feet were on the ground
His hands could touch the sky?

Oh, no, my child, about as large
As I or Uncle James.
'Twas not his stature made him great
But the greatness of his name.

His name so great? I know 'tis long
But easy quite to spell;
And more than half a year ago
I knew it very well.

I mean, my child, his actions were
So great, he got a name,
That everybody speaks with praise,
That tells about his fame.

Well what great actions did he do?
I want to know it all.
Why, he it was that conquered Tyre
And leveled down her wall,
And thousands of her people slew;
And then to Persia went,
And fire and sword on every side,
Through many a region sent.
A hundred conquered cities shone
With midnight burning red;
And strewed o'er many a battle ground
A thousand soldiers bled.

Did killing people make him great?
Then why was Abdel Young,
Who killed his neighbor training-day,
Put into jail and hung?
I never head them call him great.

Why, no, 'twas not in war;
And he that kills a single man,
The neighbors all abhor.

Well, then, if I should kill a man,
I'd kill a hundred more;
I should be great and not get hung,
Like Abdel Young, before.

Not so, my child, 'twill never do;
The Gospel bids be kind.

Then they that kill and they that praise
The Gospel do not mind.

You know, my child, the Bible says
That you must always do
To other people as you wish
To have them do to you.

But, Pa, did Alexander wish
That some strong man should come
And burn his house, and kill him, too,
And do as he had done?
And everybody call him great,
For killing people so!
Well, now, what right he had to kill
I should be glad to know.
If one should burn the buildings here
And kill the folks within,
Would anybody call him great
For such a wicked thing?

TWO LIVES

By James McGranahan.

Two babes were born in the selfsame town
On the very same bright day;
They laughed and cried in their mothers' arms
In the very selfsame way.
And both were pure and innocent
As falling flakes of snow;
But one of them lived in a terraced house
And one in the street below.

Two children played in the selfsame town
And the children both were fair;
But one had curls, brushed smooth and round,
The other had tangled hair.
The children both grew up apace
As other children grow;
But one of them lived in a terraced house
And one in the street below.

Two maidens wrought in the selfsame town,
And one was wedded and loved;
The other saw through the curtain part
The world where her sister moved
And one was a smiling, happy bride
The other knew care and woe;
For one of them lived in a terraced house
And one in the street below.

Two women lay dead in the selfsame town,
And one had tender care;
The other was left to die alone
On her pallet, thin and bare.
One had many to mourn her loss,
For the other few tears would flow
For one of them lived in a terraced house
And one in the street below.

If Jesus, who died for rich and poor,
In wondrous, holy love
Took both of the sisters in his arms
And carried them above.
Then all the difference vanished quite
For in heaven none would know
Which one of them lived in the terraced house
And which in the street below.

Silver Threads Among the Gray called for by a reader.

THE COZY CORNER

OUR MOTTO:
Here we meet for Health, Happiness and Good cheer.

HER WANDERING BOY

Dear friends of the Cozy Corner:—I read Mrs. Chandler's letter in the last November paper and my mind traveled back to a Christmas 15 years ago, when Santa Claus left a dimpled, brown-eyed baby boy in a lonely Illinois home, from which the only one had been taken. We were as proud, I think, as Mrs. Chandler, and planned wonderful things for that baby boy. We watched over him with the fondest care and vigilance, in sickness and health, and as he grew older we said we would not raise him as we were raised, in a country home where educational advantages were so sadly lacking. So we moved to a big throbbing city, where there were many good schools. All went well for a few years, during which baby girls came. The father was a trainman and away much of the time. Truants from school began to influence the boy and there was trouble along that line, and after trying the patience of teachers and parents the boy at last made the seventh grade.

We moved to Oregon, the land of bright promise, and put the boy in school, where the school law compels attendance under 16 years. We thought everything was going nicely, but the novelty of a new country soon wore off and he began to pine for the eastern home, and friends. He suddenly disappeared six weeks ago. One letter he sent from Cheyenne, Wyo., and another from Pueblo, Colo., and he was still going. "Mother," he says, "I am big enough to make my own way through this world and I'm going back to Ft. Smith, Ark. Grin and bear it."

He had a good home and kind parents. Why did he do it? Thanksgiving day I could scarcely eat but nevertheless asked the Lord to feed the absent one, who left home without a dollar.

Christmas Day is drawing near. It is the boy's fifteenth birthday and every night I ask, "Where is my wandering boy tonight?" Will some friend send that song to The Blade?

I will write a letter about the new country in which so many are interested. I sign my real name and address.—Mrs. Elsie Alvis, Oregon.

AN ARDENT SUFFRAGIST

Will you permit a stranger to have a place in the Cozy Corner? Not a stranger to the dear old Blade, for it has a welcome place in our home: but inasmuch as I have never written anything for the Peace Page I feel that I am a stranger there. My country home is in the hills of Highland county, Ohio, where we have a delightful climate and pure water, kind and generous people. I am the victim (I mean wife) of a school teacher, and let me warn my girl friends to beware of school teachers. They get in the habit of being "cross." I am an ardent advocate of woman suffrage, and I trust the day will soon dawn when a woman will have as many rights as a hobo.—Dora, Hillsboro, Ohio.

QUARANTINE THE BLUES

Dear Readers of the Peace Page—I have been reading The Blade for about a year and have enjoyed it so much that I feel I could not do without it. I hope all readers of The Blade have a cozy corner this winter morning. I say winter, because it has really come at last, the mercury registering a little below 20 here. My annuals, which had been making my yard so bright are all dead, but my potted plants here in my sitting room are looking all the lovelier since their rivals out of doors are dead. I am a dear lover of flowers and, although I do my own work and have the care of a baby, I manage to give a little time to the culture of them. I have found it a pleasant diversion while the baby slept and dinner was cooking to run out and enjoy their deep beauty and rich perfume for a few moments.

I have been in a home of my own nearly four years and I can truly say that I enjoy every department of housekeeping. I love the country and cannot complain, as so many others do of it being lonesome. Some days I have been entirely alone all day, but with my housework, books, flowers, fancy work and various other things to look after in my husband's absence, time did not hang on my hands. I dearly love to read, and think that we housekeepers should strive each day to have a little time in which to read and better ourselves. I think that it helps us to look on the bright side of life, and enables us to put a higher appreciation on the common things which are put here for us to enjoy. We should endeavor to cultivate the faculty of combining with those disagreeable duties, which necessarily claim a portion of each day, the habit of looking out and beyond our present environment, and enjoying nature in her varying moods, whether it be the flowers, the song of the birds, the patter of the rain or the falling snow. There is sure always to be something for us to enjoy if we will but search for it. Am I not right? I have always thought that the "blues must be a dreadful disease, and that those who have it should be quarantined to prevent spreading, for who can doubt its being contagious? I am happy to say that I am not in the least afflicted with it. If I should feel an attack coming on I would just get busy till the danger was over. I look upon that as a real cure in most cases.

When things begin to look a little gloomy and tangled, as they sometimes will, I just remind myself that today's burden is all I have to bear.

"Strength for today is all that I need,
There never will be a tomorrow;
Tomorrow will prove but another today,
With its measure of joy and sorrow."

If we could close our eyes to the troubles and cares which we imagine we see looming up in the distance how much happier we should be! Strength for today is all that we need, and with the asking who can doubt that it will be given us?

Am I talking too long? But I must tell the good sister who gave the recipe for baked apple dumplings what nice ones I produced by following her directions and how much the good man of the house enjoyed them.—Mrs. A. E. F., Sperryville, Va.

OUR COOK BOOK

By BLADE HOUSEKEEPERS.

Cream Caramels.

Oregon Old Maid sends in a recipe for cream caramels. Put two cups of sugar, one tablespoon of butter and one cup of milk in a saucepan and place in the stove until it boils. When it begins to do this put another cup of sugar in a pan and place on the stove until that sugar is melted. Be sure to stir constantly so that the sugar will not burn. After melting this to a syrup pour it into the other pan and allow the whole to boil until it will "soft boil" when a small bit is dropped into a saucer. Flavor with vanilla, beat a few minutes and then pour it out on a plate, cutting it into squares.

Mexican Panocha Candy.

Another candy recipe contains the following directions: Boil together one tablespoon of butter, four cups of brown sugar, and one cup of milk until it drops hard in cold water. Then add two tablespoons of vanilla and two cups of chopped nuts. Stir until well mixed and put in a little salt according to your taste. Pour on buttered plates and cut in squares.—Mrs. Emma Collins, Pennsylvania.

Fruit Sticks.

Four cups of brown sugar, two cups of lard, one being not quite full, two cups of molasses, one cup of cold water, 13 cups of flour, four eggs not beaten, one teaspoon each of nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves; ten level teaspoons of soda and one pound of raisins chopped a little. Sprinkle a little sugar on top after putting in the pan. Do not roll it on a board, but take a heaping teaspoon of dough and roll it in the hands. This makes about four gallons of cookies.

Regarding the amount of soda used in this recipe do not think it is too much. Though it seems to be a great deal, it isn't, for the recipe makes a large number of cookies.—Anna Klonts, Illinois.

Devil's Food Cake.

Two cups of sugar, one-half cup of butter, three eggs, one-half cup of sour milk, pinch of salt and three cups of flour. Mix well and stir in one-half cup of boiling water in which has been dissolved one level teaspoon of soda, one teaspoon of vanilla and two tablespoons of grated chocolate.

For filling use two cups of sugar, one tablespoon of butter, one-half cup of sweet milk or cream. Cook until it threads, and then add a teaspoon of vanilla.—Mrs. F. M. J., Indiana.

Lemon Crackers.

Two and one-half cups of sugar, one cup of lard with a little salt, one pint of sweet milk, one ounce of baking ammonia, two eggs, and one teaspoon of oil of lemon. Flour enough to make a soft dough. The ammonia should be dissolved in the milk. First beat the sugar, lard, eggs and oil of lemon, and then add the milk, ammonia and flour. Roll very thin and bake in a hot oven. This recipe makes one hundred square crackers. Baking ammonia can be procured at any drug store for five cents an ounce.—Mary Hayden, Ohio.

Black Pudding.

E. J., of Coal Springs, S. D., sends The Blade housekeepers the following recipe for black pudding: One-half pint of molasses, one-fourth cup of butter, two cups of flour, one-quarter cup of sweet milk, three eggs, one-half teaspoon of cinnamon and the same amount each of cloves and soda. Steam this one hour in a buttered pan.

A Paragraph or Two

There are occasions, brothers and sisters, when it is a good plan not to let your right ear know what your left ear hears.

Sometimes a mouthful of clothespins will keep a woman from saying what she thinks when the line breaks.

"They don't know everything," is what we heard a small Toledo boy say to his mother, on the street the other day. It doesn't take a bright boy long to make discoveries that will be of use to him in after years. That lad is not going to take things for granted.

In small souls the milk of human kindness is necessarily condensed.

The average man is neither fighting woman suffrage nor warmly advocating it. He is maintaining a go-it-old-girl attitude.

Housewives may find that it adds something to the sentiment to sing "Home, Sweet Home" with a rolling-pin accompaniment.

In her list of the world's twenty greatest women the Rev. Anna Shaw puts Eve first. Now, were a married man selecting 20 of the greatest women, he would be expected to put Mary, Jane, Samantha, or whatever his wife's name might be, at the head of the list.

Christmas Festivities

Far back in the fourth century an investigation was made as to what was the date of Christ's birth. The result of this inquiry was the agreement that December 25 should be considered as his birthdate. The proof as to this being the time was not authentic, but the decision was accepted, and so it stands to this day.

Christmas is the only holiday of the year that is observed by all the countries of Christendom in common. Each country has other holidays, but they are sacred only to the people of that one nation, while Christmas is a day set aside for observance by the Christians of the world. However, each country has a method peculiar to itself in observing this holiday. The customs of observing Christmas have changed much as the world has grown older, and in many cases these changes have been for the worse. To some Christmas has lost all of its original significance, and is now held merely as a day upon which presents are exchanged, value being given for value received. But we can still rejoice that a few consider it a blessing to give.

Christmas day in the middle ages saw the performance of dramatic mysteries and moralities, by actors clothed in singular costumes and with their faces masked. When Latin ceased to be understood by the common people the singing of carols came into vogue. Not only were the people engaged in carolling, but also the clergy took an active part, the songs being further enlivened by dances and the music of guitars, violins and organs. Nowadays the Calabrian minstrels descend from their mountain homes on the days just preceding Christmas, and proceed to Rome and Naples where they salute the shrines of the mother of Christ with their wild music.

To fail to celebrate Christmas in an appropriate way in Germany would be a sacrilege, for the Germans have much of the real Christmas spirit. On the eve of this eventful day the children make ready to have disclosed to them the contents of a room, which the fond parents have kept locked for some time, only entering once in a while to take in a mysterious package. In the center of the room is a large Christmas tree—for what would the day be without a tree—and on it are arranged a multitude of lighted tapers, apples, nuts, playthings, ornaments and gifts. Each gift is marked with the name of the person for whom it is intended, the name of the donor being omitted. There are many congratulations as the presents are distributed among the members of the assembled family party. After this scene of hilarity and joyousness there occurs one of a more serious nature, when the father tells the sons privately, and the mother does the same to the girls, what has been most praise-worthy and what most faulty in their conduct. In some of the smaller villages of North Germany the parents send all their presents to one person who, disguised in a white robe, mask and wig, goes from house to house, bestowing the presents upon the children.

England is another country in which the anniversary of Christ's birth is royally celebrated. Everyone, from the children to the old men, and from the nobles to the poor peasants, takes an active part in the merry-making. Formerly the beginning of the revels was Christmas eve, and they did not end until Candlemas (Feb. 2). The larders of the house were filled to overflowing with all varieties of good things to eat. The lord of the manor entertained his tenants at the hall. All gathered around the yule log, telling stories and laughing over jokes while they drank their punch.

The Puritans were much opposed to Christmas pastimes in this country and for some time the southern and middle states celebrated the holiday to a greater degree than did the New England states.

The custom of decorating the houses with holly and mistletoe during the holidays was derived from old Druid practices. It was one of their beliefs that sylvan spirits might flock to the evergreens and remain untouched by frost until a milder season, for the greens were not removed until Candlemas. One can see that the Christmas festivities originated centuries ago and it is impossible for any modern Scrooge to do away with them, no matter how much he may try.—H. P. W.

THE BLADE BOYS AND GIRLS

Dear Blade Children—Mrs. Anna E. Frazier, of Virginia, sends a picture of her little niece, Genilla Alaska Atkins, who was the second white child born in that far away zone of cold and gold. It is up there that Uncle Sam raises reindeer, the fleet-footed little animals of which so much has been written and printed about Christmas time. Let use see, who can remember the names of Santa Claus' reindeer? If we have not forgotten they were Dasher, Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

Baby Alaska was born at Valdez, May 29, 1908. Her father was a missionary and her mother a teacher of Indians in the Copper River valley. Her home at present is in Bath county, Virginia. Genilla Alaska was 18 months old when her picture was taken.

ALASKA WHITE BABY NO. 2.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Blade boys and girls.

Dear Readers of The Blade—My first letter did not appear in print. I will try my luck again. I am an Ohio girl; in the country near West Unity. I think country life is best of all, and healthier than living in a city. I love to have many friends. My brother and I have two miles to go to school. We are in a Christmas dialogue.—Velma Marie Theobold.

Dear Blade Children—I'm a Colorado boy, now 8 years of age. I live at an Indian agency and have no brothers or sisters. I walk a mile to school and am in the fourth grade. I can ride Indian ponies and dance. What do you think of that? My mother is field matron and I go with her on her trips. I used to live in Missouri.—Roderick Carle, Ignacio, Colo.

Jane Russet, of Pennsylvania, writes: "Print this, as it is the first poem I ever made up myself:

"I vow a true and earnest vow,
And this is what I say—
I'll get even with you tomorrow
If you duck me today!"

Little Jane's vow is fair enough as a warning, and it is true to human nature, but it is not always good to cultivate a spirit of revenge, even in play.

Dear Nature-Lore Readers—I was 11 years of age Sept. 29. I have three brothers younger than I. We go to school and help father and mother—pull weeds for the pigs, pump water for the cows, etc. We earn money from the farmers by catching woodchucks, gophers and English sparrows, and by finding birds' nests. During last summer three of us earned $17.50 Carroll earned the most, more than $9. I don't climb trees very much because I have been sick. Last year I was in the hospital. First I was there seven weeks and was operated upon for appendicitis, but when I measured 29 inches around my waist and felt as if a stone were inside of me, the doctor sent me back for another operation and I stayed five weeks. Another boy, Jimmy, was there. When I got better we went out on the back porch to shoot with air rifles, played ball and rowed on the river. We had four pets, two crows and two screech owls. We do not destroy nests, except those of the English sparrow. We put up boxes for pigeons and wrens. The kinds of birds I have seen near my home are: King bird, chipping sparrow, English sparrow, robin, bluebird, bluejay, shrike, warbling vireo, cowbird, redwinged blackbird, crow, scarlet tanager, kingfisher, song sparrow, cuckoo, brown thrasher, killdeer, cedar waxwing, flicker, swallow, screechowl, grosbeck, dickeissel, bobwhite, meadow lark, catbird, hummingbird, towhee, red headed woodpecker, mourning dove, vesper sparrow, pigeon, wren, bobolink, grackle, sora, Virginia rail, phoebe, chimney swift, nighthawk, oriole, goldfinch, Bohemian waxwing, redstart, Savannah sparrow, downy woodpecker and chickadee. I know some other birds when I see them, but I cannot think of their names today.—Maurice H. Wright, Iowa.

The editor wishes to congratulate Maurice upon his extensive knowledge of birds. He must of necessity be an ardent lover of nature. We can only hope that his splendid letter will inspire other boys to give kindly thought to birds and animals.

Dear Readers—I have not seen any letters from this part of Tennessee. I live on a farm. The Shelving Rock is on our farm, where the revolutionary soldiers camped, September 28, 1780. They were on their way to King's Mountain at the time. We can see the Roan Mountain hotel from where we live—a distance of 12 miles. I am 10 years of age and go to school in town.—Nellie Gray Brown.

Dear Blade Readers—My mamma has taken The Blade for over a year and I enjoy reading the letters from the boys and girls. I am 12 years of age. My eyes are brown. I have one brother, 14 years of age. My father is a section foreman on the C., H. & D. railroad at Haskins, Ohio, which is our home now. We used to live in Jackson county, and some time I may tell you all about the coal mines down there.—Mary Frances Jordan.

YOUNG MOTHERS

Do Not Neglect Baby's Skin

the promotion of permanent in and hair health, and in the evention and treatment of inor skin troubles, Cuticura ap and Cuticura Ointment are rivaled.

everywhere. Sample of each free, with 32-book. Address "Cuticura," Dept. 14N, Boston.

ORSE CARRIED PURSE HOME

oman Had Lost It on Way to Early Christmas Shopping.

Winsted, Conn., Dec. 14.—Jeremiah all, living near the Massachusetts ate line, and his wife drove to Win- ed yesterday to do their Christmas opping early. On arriving here, Mrs. all discovered she had lost her purse ntaining about $20.

After arriving home last evening, all, in putting out the horse, no- ed something drop from one of its ofs. He investigated and recovered wife's missing purse with money act.

"The horse must have picked it up the way home," said Hall.

Now Mrs. Taft's 20 Great Women

Washington, Dec. 13.—In the opinion of Mrs. William Howard Taft, the president's wife, the list of the greatest women the world has produced should read as follows:

Queen Victoria, Rosa Bonheur, Jeanne d'Arc, Maria Mitchell, Cecile Chaminade, Jane Austin, Charlotte Bronte, Frances Willard, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Florence Nightingale, Susan B. Anthony, George Eliot, Mme. Curie, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Lucretia Mott, Margaret Fuller, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Louisa of Prussia.

DIVORCE RING IS THE LATEST

Women Cut Down Wedding Circlets to Badge of Freedom.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—A new fad in the Chicago divorce colony has been started by Mrs. Marina Del Gado Parke, divorced wife of the secretary of the Board of Supervising Traction Engineers. She explained to friends the significance of a plain gold band ring on her little finger.

"Why, that's a divorce ring," she said. "I invented it. And now quite a few women are wearing rings like it. Pretty soon everybody will know that a plain ring on the right little finger means its wearer is divorced, and the plan of indicating a person's matrimonial status in this way will come into general use. It's so economical, too. The divorced woman can have her wedding ring cut down to fit the little finger."

MISSING HEIRESS MYSTERY DEEPENS

Chicago Girl Lost on Way to Racine on Afternoon of November 25.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—The mystery into which Violet Buehler, 15 years old, journeyed on the afternoon of Nov. 25 remains a mystery. No end has been found to the brief train trip which should have taken the child to the birthday party of her cousin in Racine. One after another a half dozen possible clews were destroyed. Only one remained.

The girl is joint heiress with her mother to an estate of $100,000, left them three years ago through the death of their father.

It was the report of Samuel J. Winegar, a retired minister, that while waiting at the station in Kenosha on the day before Thanksgiving he had seen a girl answering Violet's description apparently trying to escape from two men.

Tells of Two Men.

"She was not struggling," said Mr. Wineger, "but she seemed to be pleading with them to let her go. I thought nothing of it at the time, believing it was a quarrel between some spoiled child and her father. Both men were well along in life and both wore gray overcoats. I would know them if I saw them, but not the girl."

Thanksgiving postdated the girl's disappearance by five days. Mrs. Anna Buehler, the mother, spent yesterday in Racine, aiding Chief of Police Harry Baker in his search. She went there in the afternoon to look at a watch which had been found near the electric line station shortly after the date of Violet's disappearance. It was thought the girl might have lost it in a struggle, but Mrs. Buehler said it did not resemble the one her daughter carried.

Questions That Puzle Police.

The search has now sifted down to a few questions:

Did Violet Buehler get on the train which should have taken her to Racine?

Did she get as far as Racine?

If she went farther, was it with her consent or against it?

The police believe that when these are answered the mystery will be cleared. But the big queston in Mrs. Buehler's mind is, "Alive or dead?"

Until three years ago the Buehlers lived in Racine. Violet owns property there and has a bank account. This, the police ascertained, has not been touched for more than a month. It is almost impossible, Mrs. Buehler asserts, for her to conceive of Violet remaining in Racine any length of time without being recognized. She has an uncle, Peter Davison, living in the city and another, John Davison, livng about a mile and a half from town.

SEEKS HEIRESS BY LETTER

Mother Uses Newspapers When Detectives Fail.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—The police having failed to make progress, Mrs. Anna Buehler, mother of Violet Buehler, a 15 year old girl who disappeared last week after leaving home for a visit in Wisconsin, last night sent an open letter to her daughter to Chicago newspapers, for publication today with the expressed hope that the newspapers would accomplish what the detectives have failed to do—find the missing girl. Following is a copy of the letter:

"My Own Precious Little Girl—Your mama is heartbroken. If you see this, make every effort to let mama know where you are. I have not been able to eat or sleep since you went to visit your Aunt Mary and you did not reach there. Violet, I want you to come home, so we can go and see all the pretty things as we always did.

"Now, Violet, let me hear from you as soon as you see this, no matter where you are, and do everything in your power to get home, which will be all that I want.

"I send you a million kisses.

"From your dear Mama."

HER GOLD FISH EXPLODING

Woman Writes of Odd Events to Game Commissioner.

Denver, Dec. 14.—Finny McNamaras are probably at work among the gold fish of Colorado, according to an opinion of Colonel James A. Shinn, state game and fish commissioner. Colonel Shinn bases his theory of such a probability on a letter received today from a Colorado woman.

"I just wonder what's the matter with my gold fish," the woman wrote to Colonel Finn. "They are just as healthy and well fed as they can be. But lately they have been exploding.

"They will swim around in the most sportive manner in their bowl, and then suddenly they will come to the surface of the water, and pop, bang, explode into a thousand bits."

MRS. ELBERT GARY'S PEARLS

Most Costly Necklace in the World Made for Her.

New York, Dec. 14.—The most costly Christmas present which will be given this year has just been completed by New York jewelers for Judge Elbert H. Gary, as a gift to his wife. It is a necklace of 100 perfect pearls and is said to be worth not less than $500,000. Part of the pearls have been in Mrs. Gary's possession for some time but it was not until a few days ago that the last pearl to complete the ornament were found and strung

The pearls graduate in size from the center one, the size of a cherry, to the the small ones at the ends which are joined by a diamond and emerald clasp

The whoe necklace is admittedly the most valuable one of its kind in the world

WINS WALK ON VEGETABLES

Brother Who Abstained From Meat Reaches Goal First.

Los Angeles, Dec. 14.—After a five-month hike across the continent Warren H. Buffum arrived in San Bernardino today. And thus the vegetarian wins.

Warren and his brother Jesse left on the long trip on behalf of science and to test the theories of Prof. Sargent, of Harvard.

Warren stuck to a vegetable diet throughout the trip and Jesse ate meat regularly. At Needles his hip gave way and he was obliged to come in on the train, reaching Los Angeles a week ago. Today he came out to meet his brother.

BLADE PATTERNS---LATEST FASHIONS

The Blade will supply its readers with patterns of these designs at the rate of 10 cents for each pattern. The patterns are perfect fitting. All seams allowed. Full directions for making. In ordering give size, number, age, etc.

Address: Pattern Department, The Blade, Toledo, Ohio.

5,665—Ladies' Four-Gored Skirt.

5665

The new panel is seen to advantage in the charming skirt model here illustrated. This is stitched partly down the length of the garment, but hangs free a few inches above the bottom. The closing of the skirt is at the left side of the front. A feature of the front is the triangle-shaped insert of contrasting goods set in near the bottom of the skirt. ove it are three small buttons. The pattern, No 5,665, is cut in sizes m 22 to 30 inch waist measure. To ake the skirt in the medium size ll require 3⅞ yards of 36-inch maial and ⅝ of a yard of contrasting ods.

5,673—Ladies' Six-Gored Skirt.

5673

A skirt of this type well adapted for eneral or dressy ocsions. It is a plain gored model with e fashionable tunic comingly arranged the sides. The ttern is perforated both high and gulation waistline. e garment closes the left side of e back. Cheviot, serge or oadcloth may be ed and the tunic n have tiny butns at bottom of onts to give ornantation. The pattern, No. 5,673, is cut in sizes m 22 to 30-inch waist measure. To ake the skirt in the medium size will quire 4¼ yards of 36-inch material or yards of 44-inch goods.

091—Ladies' One Piece Corset Cover.

4091

This is a good design for a corset cover, made from flouncing which requires no trimming. It is made of plain cambric or lawn; the neck and armholes may be embellished with Val edging. Ribbon run through neck, armholes and around belt adds dainty completion. The pattern, No. 4,091, is cut in sizes from 32 to 48 ch bust measure. To make the cort cover in the medium size will reire 1¾ yards of flouncing.

4,164—Ladies' Kitchen Apron.

4164

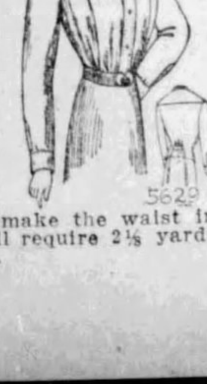
This apron is useful r kitchen or studio ork as it completely otects the gown. e garment is cut ain and hangs free om the shoulders. here are two handy ockets. The yoke nd armholes are trimed with cotton braid. ingham is the best to se for making the pron. The pattern, No. 164, is cut in sizes om 32, 36, 40 and 44 ust measure. To ake the apron in the edium size will reire 3¾ yards of 27-ch material.

5,667—Ladies' Dress.

5667.

The attractive dress here illustrated closes at the front. It is a chic one-piece model and one of the latest styles. The front revers are formed of contrasting goods of which the pretty turn-back cuffs are also made. Serge is a good suggestion for a garment of this design and finished with satin revers, collar and cuffs, is as nice a dress as could be made. The pattern, No. 5,667, is cut in sizes for 32 to 42 inch bust measure. To make the dress in the medium size will require 4¾ yards of 36-inch material with ⅞ of a yard of contrasting goods.

5,629—Ladies' Yoke Shirtwaist.



5629

Many style feaures are exemplied in this modish hirtwaist, which as shoulder and ack yoke. One lait at each shouler is released to rovide fullness to he garment, anther plait on each de of the center ox plait is stitched down to the elt line. The aist may be made madras, percale linen. The pattern, No. 629, is cut in sizes r 32 to 42 inch ust measure. To make the waist in the medium size will require 2⅛ yards 36-inch material.

5,660—Children's Rompers.

5660

No article of wearing apparel is so useful for the small child as the popular rompers. The design here illustrated is simple to make, so that the amateur needleworker can fashion them with no dfficulty. The little garment is cut in one piece. It has long, plain sleeves and high neck, completed with a tiny band collar. Chambray, madras or flannelette may be used. The pattern, No. 5,660, is cut in sizes for the child 1, 2 and 3 years of age. To make the rompers in the medium size will require 2⅛ yards of 27-inch material.

5,669—Ladies' Waist.

5669

Here is a dressy waist that is cut in the simple style with body and upper part of sleeves in one. The sailor collar may be round or square, as preferred. The three-quarter length sleeves have a pointed turn-back cuff. Both collar and cuffs are ornamented with braid. The pattern provides for a removable chemisette. Messaline satin will develop this garment beautifully having the yoke and collar of white or cream lace. The pattern, No. 5,669, is cut in sizes for 32 to 42 inch bust measure. To make the waist in the medium size will require 3 yards of 36-inch material.

5,598—Girls' Long Box Coat.

5598

We show here a comfortable coat for a little girl, which is cut on straight box lines. At the back there is a deep sailor collar which terminates in long, close-fastening revers at the front. Above this a turn-down collar. The plain sleeves have stitching to simulate cuffs. Broadcloth or cheviot would develop this design splendidly with the revers of satin a trifle different shade from the color of the material from which the coat is made. The pattern, No. 5,598, is cut in sizes for girls from 4 to 12 years of age. To make the coat in the medium size will require 3¼ yards of 36-inch material.

5,668—Girls' Dress.

5668

A pretty little dress with an applied yoke is here pictured. It is a modified Gibson model, which is always in good taste for the carrying out of frocks for the little miss. A plain skirt is gathered to the waist by a band. The tucks over the shoulders, both front and back, extend to the waist-line. The three-quarter sleeves have band cuffs. Woolen or cotton plaid material is a good suggestion for a little garment of this nature. The pattern, No. 5,668, is cut in sizes for girls from 6 to 12 years of age. To make the dress in the medium size will require 2⅝ yards of 36-inch material.

2,654—Child's Apron.

2654

This little apron may be used as a house dress for the little girl, as it closes all the way down the back, much after the manner of a regular frock. To protect the child's dress while at school or play an apron of this style is admirable. The garment is cut plain at the front, but the backs are gathered on a small square yoke. There is a pretty turn-down collar, divided both front and back, and the long, full sleeves have a neat band finished with a narrow ruffle. Gingham is the best material to use, but galatea or percale is available. The pattern, No. 2,654, is cut in sizes for 2 to 12 years. To make the garment in the medium size will require 3¼ yards of 27-inch goods.

5,670—Ladies' Sewing Apron.

5670

Here is a clever design for a fancy apron, which can serve several purposes. It is cut triangle-shape with bib to correspond. If used for a sewing apron there is a nice large pocket to hold scissors, thread, etc. If made for a tea apron the pocket and bib may be omitted. Made up of lawn or swiss, with lace trimming, it will be very dainty. The pattern, No. 5,670, is cut one size. To make the apron 1⅝ yards of 27-inch material will be required.

Suffragettes Again Invade Wall Street, and Police Keep Order

MRS. BLATCH DR. ANNA SHAW MRS. COLT

New York, Dec. 14.—Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch, the Rev. Anna Shaw and Mrs. William Colt have again invaded Wall street, and this time they were enabled to speak and be heard. Ten uniformed policemen and 30 plain clothes men surrounded the Women's Political union automobile, in which the suffragettes visited the financial district, and they kept the crowd still. Even the applause was strictly limited, and the few men and boys who started to create a disturbance were hustled away with more haste than dignity. All three of the women had a chance to speak and they were listened to silently if not respectfully. The uniformed policemen surrounded the auto and kept the auditors at a distance of several feet, so that there was no snatching of flags from the hands of the orators, as was done a few days ago when Mrs. Pankhurst, the English militant suffragette, tried to convert brokers and messenger boys to her way of thinking.

SHEEP BENEATH SCHOOL

Rank Conditions in Some Ohio Rural Schools Found by Commissioner.

Columbus, Dec. 14.—That the health and morals of thousands of children attending schools in this state are endangered through unhygenic and unsanitary school rooms and their very lives jeopardized through the decay of school buildings in certain sections of Ohio, along with far-reaching complaints regarding the uniformity of school books in the elementary schools of the rural regions, are some of the results of personal investigation that has been quietly conducted by State School Commissioner Miller and which will be used by him in agitating for adequate school legislation by the constitutional convention when it convenes here next month.

Throughout the counties on the Ohio river, according to Mr. Miller, poor schools abound. Facilities for teaching are scarce and although some of the teachers by endless work have managed to make a good showing, indifference and neglect is the rule.

Pike County Worst.

Pike county is cited as being among the worst. The northwestern portion of this county is reached only by a long drive over the most impassable of roads and the schools equal the roads in inefficiency. Several of the teachers were found to be ignorant of the titles of the books in use.

In Clermont, Brown, Adams and Meigs counties many schools were found in poor condition. In Butler county Mr. Miller found that beneath the school house was located a sheep stable, the floors were cracked and gaped in spots. These children were doubly endangered by drafts which caused coughs and colds and by their proximity to the sheep which are known to be great disease carriers.

In Lawrence county several school houses were found to be in an extremely dilapidated condition. One was in such a state of decay that the lives of its occupants were endangered through its possible collapse. Rain and weather had rotted away the piles upon which it was built and one corner had dropped to the ground. Only great timbers propped against the sides of the building prevented its total collapse.

Pupils' Health Endangered.

In a much larger percentage of the schools visited, the health of pupils was endangered through neglect to make necessary repairs. In at least forty that were visited, the floors permitted the breezes to sweep about the limbs and ankles of pupils, while gusts from broken windows and broken door panels saw to it that the upper portions of the children's bodies were kept uncomfortably cold.

One school trustee, when asked by Mr. Miller how they intended keeping the school house warm in the winter, is reported to have said:

"We won't try. When it gets too cold, we'll shut up shop."

"So general are these conditions," said Mr. Miller today, "that little or nothing can be done to remedy matters under the present laws. Neglect on the part of the members of boards of education is largely responsible. In those sections where the members are interested ideal conditions exist. The only remedy is through proper legislation."

Mr. Miller stated his intention is to submit to the constitutional convention a brief resume of suggestions which he believes will remedy matters. In preparing these suggestions, the school laws of every state in the union will be drawn upon, especially those of Minnesota and Wisconsin, which laws the commissioner considers the best in existence.

CHILD WINS $100 REWARD

Finds Lost Diamond After Elders Hunted Vainly.

New York, Dec. 14.—Lulu Trembly, aged eight, of Amityville, L. I., earned $100 easily yesterday after many of her elders had given all their spare time in the last ten weeks working hard to get it. She found a $500 diamond belonging to Mrs. Charles Axtmann, for which that reward had been offered.

Mrs. Axtmann dropped the gem from its setting on the way home from a party on the night of September 2. She had cherished it specially because it was a gift from her husband, and the loss of it made her ill. Little Lulu, swishing a stick among the dead leaves on the roadside while going on an errand caught a sun gleam from below and picked up the diamond. It had been kicked around in the dirt where the people had hunted for weeks.

FADED FORTUNE IN BUSTLE

Portland, Me., Dec. 18.—Ten thousand dollars in currency so faded and worn that it will be sent to Washington for redemption, has been found in a bustle that was worn for many years by Mrs. Mary Fassett, who died suddenly at her home in Hodgen Mills, a few days ago. None of the bills is of a more recent issue than 1886.

No Excuse For Pimples

Skin Cleared in a Short Time by Stuart's Calcium Wafers, the Famous Blood Purifier.

Trial Package Sent Free to Prove It.

Pimples, blotches, skin eruptions of all kinds, are simply the impurities in the blood coming to the surface. All the external treatment in the world won't do a particle of good unless you

purify the blood. And there's nothing so humiliating as a face that's all "broken out" and spotted.

Stuart's Calcium Wafers will clear the most obstinate complexion, because they go right into the blood and remove the cause of the trouble. The blood is cleansed of all impurities and foreign substances and these are quickly eliminated from the system. You'll notice a wonderful change in a few days—you will hardly know yourself in a week.

And Stuart's Calcium Wafers are absolutely harmless to any one. Their ingredients are just what a physician prescribes in most cases of skin eruptions and poor blood. These wafers are put up in a concentrated form, which makes them act quickly and thoroughly.

Begin taking Stuart's Calcium Wafers today and then look at yourself in the mirror in a few days, and find all those awful pimples, blackheads, acne, boils, liver spots, rash, eczema and that muddy complexion rapidly diappearing and your face cleared like the petal of a flower.

You can easily test Stuart's Calcium Wafers for yourself. We will cheerfully mail you a trial package free, if you will just send us your name and address. You can get the regular-sized package for 50 cents in any drug store.

Write for the free package to F. A. Stuart Co., 422 Stuart Bldg., Marshall, Mich.

'BLOCK SUFFRAGE,' WOMEN DEMAND

Lord Curzon Speaks for British League Opposing the Franchise.

London, Dec. 15.—Premier Asquith received today in Downing street an influential delegation from the National League Opposing Woman Suffrage.

Lord Curzon, introducing the deputation, said that the female suffrage amendment, if carried, would create a serious and alarming situation. The majority of women, Lord Curzon said, if not hostile to the amendment were wholly indifferent. There was nothing to show that a majority of men favored it, and he hoped that it would not be carried and made a law until the electors had passed their judgment upon the matter.

Prime Minister's Opinion.

The prime minister, replying as an individual, said:

"I am in entire agreement with you that the granting of the franchise to women would be a political mistake of the most disastrous kind. On the other hand, a considerable number of my colleagues in the cabinet hold a different opinion. The government has accordingly announced a policy whereto it is the duty of all loyally to abide."

Asquith concluded with the hope that "public opinion will declare that it is not prepared to make the gigantic experiment for which there is no parallel in the history of any other country in the world, because, where suffrage has been granted to women, conditions are totally different to those that exist in our own."

Women Want to Enter Army.

Duesseldorf, Dec. 15.—The introduction of obligatory military service for women was proposed at a meeting today of the Patriotic Women's union here by Privy Medical Councillor Witzel, professor of the Medical academy at Duesseldorf.

The lecturer suggested that women should be enrolled in the military hospital, transport, provisioning and clothing services, and should be mobilized with the other auxiliary troops in case of war.

THE MARKETS

New York Stocks.

New York, Dec. 19, 1911.

Stocks.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Atl. Coast Line	134½	136	134½	135
Am. Loco. com	36¾	36⅞	36⅝	36¾
Atchison	106¼	106½	106	106⅜
Am. Car & F. Co.	54	55⅜	53¾	55
Anaconda	38½	38½	37⅞	38¼
Amal. Copper	64⅞	65⅝	64⅝	65½
Am. Smelters	73½	73⅞	73¼	73¾
Am. Ag. Chem. com.	61⅞	62½	61⅞	62½
Am. Steel Fdy	33½	33½	33	33½
Am. Tel. & Tel	139¾	140	139⅝	139⅞
Am. Tobacco pfd	102¾	103	102¾	103
Am. Cotton Oil	44¾	46⅝	44¾	46⅛
Am. Beet Sugar	56	56⅞	55⅞	56⅞
Biscuit com	139⅝	140½	139⅞	140⅛
Balt. & Ohio	103⅛	103⅝	103⅛	103⅛
B'lyn R. Trans	77¼	77⅛	77½	77¾
Cast I. Pipe com	16	16	16	16
Beth. Steel com	30	30½	30	30⅜
Chicago & G. W	19	19⅛	19	19⅛
Canadian Pac	240⅝	241⅝	240⅝	241⅝
Clover Leaf	15⅝	15⅞	15⅝	15⅞
Ches. & Ohio	74⅛	74⅛	74	74
Central Leather	20⅛	20⅜	20⅛	20⅜
Consolidated Gas	138⅜	138½	138⅛	138⅜
Can common	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Can pfd	89¾	90¼	89⅝	90¼
Chino Copper	25⅛	25⅞	25⅛	25⅞
Distillers' Sec	31	31⅝	31	31⅜
Erie com	32⅛	33	32⅛	32⅞
Erie 1st pfd	53	53⅞	53	53⅞
Gt. Northern pfd	128¾	128½	128½	128⅞
Gt. Northern Ore	35⅜	35⅝	35⅜	35⅝
Int. Harvester com	107⅛	110¾	107⅛	110¼
Interborough com	15	15¼	15	15¼
Interborough pfd	48½	49	48½	48⅞
Lehigh Valley	183⅝	183⅝	182¼	182¼
Louis. & Nash	156⅛	158⅜	156	158⅜
Merc. Marine pfd	16⅞	16⅞	16⅞	16⅞
Missouri Pacific	39	39⅞	38⅝	39⅞
M. S. M.	135¼	135½	135¼	135¼
M., K. & T. com	29½	29⅝	29⅜	29⅝
Miami	23	23⅛	22⅞	23⅛
North. Pacific	118⅜	118⅜	118	118⅜
National Lead	54⅛	55	54⅛	55
Nevada Con's	19	19	18⅞	19
North Am. Co	73	73	73	73
N. Y. Central	106⅞	107	106⅛	106⅞
N. & W. com	108⅞	108⅞	108⅜	108⅜
N. & W. Con. 4's	108	108	108	108
Penn. Ry	123	123⅜	122⅞	123⅜
People's Gas Co	103¼	103⅜	103¼	103⅜
Ray Con's	17⅞	18	17⅞	18
Reading com	152¼	153⅛	152	152⅞
Rock Island	24⅛	24⅝	24⅛	24⅝
Rock Island pfd	45⅛	46	45⅛	45⅝
Rep. I. and S. Co	26⅞	27¼	26⅞	27⅛
Rep. pfd	84⅞	85	84⅞	84⅞
South. Ry	29¾	30⅛	29⅝	30
South. Ry. pfd	71⅜	72⅛	71⅜	72⅛
St. Paul	110⅞	111	110⅝	111
South. Pacific	112⅞	112⅞	112⅜	112⅞
So. Pac. Con. 4's	97	97	97	97
Texas Oil Co	83⅝	83⅝	83⅝	83⅝
Texas Pacific	22¼	22¼	22¼	22¼
Tenn. Copper	37⅞	38⅛	37⅞	38⅛
Union Pacific	172⅞	174⅜	172⅞	173⅞
Union Pacific pfd	92¾	93⅛	92⅝	93⅛
U. S. Steel	67½	69⅛	67⅝	68⅞
U. S. Steel pfd	111	111⅛	111	111⅛
U. S. Steel 5's	101⅜	101⅜	101⅜	101⅜
U. S. Rubber com	47⅛	47⅝	47⅛	47⅝
Utah Copper	54⅛	54⅞	53⅞	54⅞
Virginia Chem	55	55⅛	55	55⅛
Western Md	60⅜	60⅞	60⅛	60⅞
Wabash com	6⅜	6⅜	5⅞	6
Wabash pfd	15⅛	15⅜	14⅛	15⅜
Western Union	80	80	79⅝	80
Westinghouse	68⅜	68⅜	68⅛	68⅝

Money and Stocks.

New York, Dec. 19.—(Wall Street.)—Recessions of small fractions occurred in most of the active stocks when trading began today. There was pressure against the Wabash securities as a result of the appointment of receivers for the road, but this action had been largely discounted and the losses were not severe. Wabash preferred fell to 15⅜, the lowest price of the year, the common stock lost ¾ and the four per cent bonds a point. The only issue to show marked strength was Canadian Pacific, which rose nearly a point.

Extensive realizing in Lehigh Valley and liquidation in the various Gould stocks caused the general market to give way still further. Declines reached a point in Anaconda, American Smelting preferred, Lehigh Valley and Denver and Rio Grande 1½ in the preferred; 1¼ in Wabash, and 1¾ in the preferred. There was a partial recovery before 11 o'clock.

Bears traders resumed their attack on the slow market, which they carried on successfully. They were helped for a time by unfavorable effect produced by the Wabash receivership, and by profit taking in Lehigh Valley. Declines in most cases, however, were small, and after the first hour the list rallied. The Gould issues did not share in the improvement to any great extent, with the exception of the Wabash bonds which were bought on the announcement that the January interest on the fours would be paid.

All trace of the heaviness in the general market vanished during the course of the second hour. Prices rose steadily until the representative issues were generally ruling above yesterday's closing. Union Pacific made a gain of ½ and Reading ¾. Bonds were irregular.

Expectations that the negotiations by the International Harvester with the government would be concluded satisfactorily caused a demand for the stock, which advanced 3 points. Elsewhere the movement was trivial, aside from the southern group. Louisville & Nashville and Atlantic Coast Line gained over a point each. Wabash 4s were heavily purchased and touched 52¼, compared with 50 at the outset, and 51 yesterday's close.

Selected stocks moved upward in a striking manner, but the general speculation was listless and changes were insignificant. International Harvester sold at 110¼, a rise of 3¼. Louisville and Nashville improved 2¼. National Biscuit 2⅝. Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Coast Line 1¼, and National Lead and Republic Steel 1.

The Grain Markets.

Toledo, Dec. 19.—With bullish news predominating, wheat opened strong and higher today. After a start steady to a shade lower, the price trend took an up course early. Strengthening factors were rather unfavorable Argentine advices, light northwest arrivals and a bullish interpretation to the government report. There were some rather favorable reports from Argentina along with the bullish cables. European crop summary indicated improved conditions. Toledo cash and Dec. opened at 97¾c, May $1.01½ and July 96¾c.

Becoming top-heavy, the market sagged later. Cash and Dec. closed ½c down at 97¼c. May ⅜c off at $1.01¼, and July ⅜c lower at 96⅝c.

Corn was rather unsteady with a strong undertone on the call. Dec. opened ¼c higher at 65¾c. May unchanged at 66⅛c, and July ⅛c down at 66¼c.

Cash and Dec corn closed at 65c, May at 66c, July at 66¼c.

Oats was weak with other grains at the very outset but soon regained the small amount of ground lost. Dec. opened ¼c off at 50c, May ¼c down at 51½c and July ¼c lower at 48c.

Final oats quotes: Cash and Dec. 50c, May 51⅜c, July 47⅝c.

Clover seed, which opened as follows, showed no changes up till midday: cash and Dec. $12.65, March $12.55 Feb. $12.60. Receipts were nil against 160 a year ago. Shipments were 290 compared with 200 a year ago.

Near the close clover weakened, cash finishing at $12.57½, Mar. at $12.45, Feb. at $12.52½.

TOLEDO.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec. 19.	Close Dec. 18.
Wheat—					
Cash	97¾	98¼	....	97¼	97¾
Dec.	97¾	98¼	....	97¼	97¾
May	1.01½	1.02¼	1.01	1.01¼	1.01⅝
July	96¾	97	96½	96⅝	97
Corn—					
Cash	....	....	....	65	65½
Dec.	65¾	....	....	65	65½
May	66⅛	66⅜	....	66	66⅛
July	66¼	66⅜	....	66¼	66⅜
Oats—					
Cash	....	....	....	50	50¼
Dec.	50	50¼	....	50	50¼
May	51½	51½	....	51⅜	51¾
July	48	48⅛	....	47⅝	48⅛
Clover Seed—					
Cash	12.65	....	....	12.57½	12.65
Dec	12.65	....	....	12.57½	12.65
March	12.55	....	....	12.45	12.55
Feb	12.60	....	....	12.52½	12.60
No. 2	....	....	....	12.25@12.35	....
No. 3	....	....	....	12.00@12.10	....
Rejected	....	....	....	11.60@11.80	....
N. E. G.	....	....	....	9.00@11.25	....
Rye—					
No. 2	....	....	....	93	93
Timothy—					
Cash	....	....	....	7.40	7.35
Dec.	....	....	....	7.40	7.35
March	....	....	....	7.50	7.45
Alsike—					
Cash	....	....	....	10.95	10.90
Dec.	....	....	....	10.95	10.90
March	....	....	....	11.15	11.10

CHICAGO.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec. 19.	Close Dec. 18.
Wheat—					
Dec.	95¼	95¾	95⅛	95⅛	95¼
May	99⅝	1.00⅜	99¼	99¼	99¾
July	95⅛	95⅝	95	95⅛	95½
Corn—					
Dec.	63¼	....	63⅜	63⅛	63⅝
May	64⅞	65⅛	64½	64⅝	64⅞
July	64⅞	65	....	64½	64⅞
Oats—					
Dec.	46¾	....	46⅜	46⅜	47¼
May	48¾	....	48⅛	48½	48¾
July	45¾	45¾	45	45¼	45¾

NEW YORK.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec. 19.	Close Dec. 18.
Wheat—					
Dec	....	....	....	98	98¼
May	1.04⅛	1.04½	1.03¾	1.04	1.04⅛

ST. LOUIS.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec. 19.	Close Dec. 18.
Wheat—					
Dec	....	....	....	95½	95¾
May	99½	1.00	98⅛	99¼	99⅝

MINNEAPOLIS.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec. 19.	Close Dec. 18.
Wheat—					
Dec	....	....	....	1.03½	1.03¾
May	....	....	....	1.07½	1.07¾

DULUTH.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec. 19.	Close Dec. 18.
Wheat—					
Dec	....	....	....	1.03⅝	1.03⅞
May	....	....	....	1.06⅝	1.06⅞

CHICAGO PROVISIONS.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close Dec. 19.	Close Dec. 18.
Pork—					
Jan.	15.42	15.60	....	15.57	15.37
May	15.90	16.10	....	16.05	15.85
July	16.12	....	....	16.20	16.02
Lard—					
Jan.	9.10	....	....	9.22	9.10
May	9.35	9.47	....	9.42	9.30
July	9.52	....	....	9.57	9.42
Ribs—					
Jan.	8.22	....	....	8.37	8.20
May	8.52	....	....	8.65	8.47
July	8.62	....	....	8.67	8.50

Toledo Live Stock.

Toledo Union Stock Yards, Dec. 19.—Hog receipts were light and the market ruled steady to strong. Local packers were principal buyers. The close was active. Sheep and lambs receipts were light and the market ruled strong. Veal calves also were strong.

Hogs—Selected heavies, $6.10@6.20; good mediums, $6.05@6.15; heavy yorkers, $5.95@6.05; light yorkers, $5.50@5.90; good pigs, $5.25@5.60; bulk of sales, $6.00@6.15; good mixed, $6.00@6.15; stags and roughs, $4.50@5.50.

Cattle—Prime steers, 1,250 lbs. and up, $7.00@7.25; good to choice, $6.00@6.50; good fat, 1,050 to 1,200 lbs., $5.50@6.00; fair to good, 900 to 1,100 lbs., $5.00@5.50; common and light steers, $4.00@4.50; choice fat cows, $3.75@4.50; common cows, $2.50@3.00; canners and cutters, $2.00@2.50; prime export bulls, $4.25@4.50; good butcher bulls, $3.75@4.20; fair to good bologna, $3.50@3.75; common, $3.00@3.50; choice fat heifers, $5.00@5.50; fair to good, $4.50@5.00; common and light heifers, $3.50@4.00; good to choice feeding steers, $5.25@5.50; fair to good feeders, $5.50@5.75; stockers, good to choice, $4.50@5.00; stockers, common to fair, $4.00@4.50; milkers and springers, $25@60.

Sheep and lambs—Prime wethers, $3.00@3.50; good to choice mixed, $2.50@3.25; fair to good, $2.00@2.50; culls and common, $1.00@2.00; lambs, choice, $6.00@6.25; fair to good, $5.00@5.50; culls and common, $3.00@4.00.

Calves—Choice to extra, $8.00@8.50 down; fair to good, $6.00@7.50; common to light, $5.00@6.00; heavy and feed, $4.00@4.50.

Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Cattle—Receipts estimated at 5,000; market slow, steady; beeves, $4.60@8.90; Texas steers, $4.10@5.75; western steers, $4.70@6.50; stockers and feeders, $3.25@5.70; cows and heifers, $1.90@6.50; calves, $5.00@7.50. Hogs—Receipts estimated at 23,000; market steady to strong; light, $5.55@6.10; mixed, $5.75@6.25; heavy, $5.85@6.25; rough, $5.85@6.00; good to choice heavy, $6.00@6.25; pigs, $4.50@5.70; bulk of sales, $5.95@6.10. Sheep—Receipts estimated at 18,000; market steady; native, $2.50@4.00; western, $2.70@4.00; yearlings, $4.00@5.25; lambs, native, $4.00@6.00; western, $4.25@6.00.

Pittsburg Live Stock.

Pittsburg, Dec. 19.—Cattle—Receipts, none. Hogs—Receipts, 2,000; heavy Yorkers, $6.10; light Yorkers, $6.00; pigs, $5.90. Sheep and lambs—Receipts, 2,000; top sheep, $4.00; top lambs, $6.35. Calves—Receipts, 200; top, $8.75.

East Buffalo Live Stock.

East Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 19.—Cattle—Receipts, 400 head; steady. Veals—Receipts, 150 head; active and steady. Hogs—Receipts, 12,000 head; fairly active; heavy, 5@10c higher; light, 15@25c higher; heavy, $6.15@6.20; mixed, $6.10@6.15; Yorkers, $6.00@6.10; pigs, $5.90@6.00; roughs, $5.50@5.70; stags, $4.50@5.25; dairies, $6.00@6.10. Sheep and lambs—Receipts, 3,000; ewes and mixed sheep, 10@15c higher; lambs, 40@50c higher; lambs, $4.50@7.00; ewes, $3.50@3.65; sheep, mixed, $1.50@3.75.

Cleveland Live Stock.

Cleveland, Dec. 19.—Cattle—Receipts, 150; market slow. Veal calves—Receipts, 200; market steady. Sheep and lambs—Receipts, 1,400; lambs, 25c higher; sheep steady; choice spring lambs, $6.25@6.50. Hogs—Receipts, 3,000; market steady; extreme heavies, $6.15; mediums, $6.10; Yorkers, $6.00; light Yorkers, $5.80; pigs, $5.60; roughs, $5.40; stags, $4.75.

Toledo Produce.

Quotations are based on what is charged the grocery trade. Retail necessarily are higher.

Butter—Fancy Elgin creamery, 1 lb. prints, 36½@37c; solid pack, 35½@36c.

Process Butter—Per lb., tub, 26@27c; dairy, prime, 28c; packing stock, 18c; oleo, 16@20c.

Cheese—Choice Michigan, 16@17c; New York state, 16@17c; brick, 18c; limburger, 16@18c; Swiss, domestic, 20c; imported, 32c.

Eggs—Candled, fresh, 35c; strictly fresh, 44c; current receipts, 31@32c; storage, case count, 24c; candled, 25@27c.

Onions—Home-grown, 100 lbs., yellow, $2.25; red, $2.25; white, 50 lbs., $2.00; Spanish crate, 45 lbs., $1.75; garlic, 8@10c.

Celery—Michigan, small bunches, doz., 25c, 40c and 50c.

Lettuce—11c head; hamper, $3.50.

Cucumbers—Doz., $1.50@1.75.

Brussels Sprouts—Quart, 23c.

Tomatoes—Cal., 4-basket crate, $2.25@2.40.

Mango Pepper—Crate, $3.50@4.00.

Egg Plant—Crate, $4.00.

Beans—Wax, $7.50.

Potatoes—Michigan, 150-lb. sack, $2.40@2.45; bu., 95@96c; Bermudas, bbl., $4.50.

Sweet Potatoes—Delaware, hamper, $1.50@1.65.

Turnips—Bu., 25@35c.

Cabbage—Home-grown, lb., 1¾c; ton, $35.00.

Cauliflower—Doz., $2.00.

Squash—Hubbard, lb., 1c; ton, $18.00.

Parsley—Dozen bunches, 15c.

Onions—15c.

Vegetable Oysters—Dozen, 30c.

Spinach—65@70c.

Hot House Radishes—25c.

Southern Parsley—70c doz.

Carrots—Bu., 50c.

Cranberries—Oak Bog, basket, $3.00; bbl., $8.50; late Howes, $9.50.

Bananas—Bunch, $1.00@1.50.

Oranges—Florida, $2.65@2.85; Cal., $3.00@3.10.

Kumquats—Quart, 30c.

Tangerines—Half doz., $2.50.

Lemons—California, $4.25@4.50.

Grape Fruit—$4.50@5.00.

Limes—100, $1.25.

Pears—Keiffer, 50@60c.

Apples—Greenings, $3.50; Baldwins, $2.75@3.50; Russets, $2.50@3.00; Kings and Spies and Bellflowers, $4.00@4.50.

Grapes—Malaga, $5.00@6.00.

Figs—California, white, whole, 50-lb. box, 9c pound; Turkish, 13@16½c.

New York Produce.

New York, Dec. 19.—Flour firm. Wheat—Opening barely steady on cables, wheat turned strong on commission house buying, due to small northwest receipts and advanced ½c over last night; May, $1.04 1-16@1.04⅛. Pork steady. Beef firm. Lard steady. Raw sugar barely steady; Muscovado, 89 test, 4.30c; centrifugal, 96 test, 4.80c; Molasses, 89 test, 4.05c; refined quiet. Petroleum steady. Molasses steady. Hay firm. Hides firm. Leather firm. Butter firm; receipts, 9,275. Cheese steady; receipts, 1,078. Eggs firm; receipts, 3,576; fresh gathered extras, 46@48c; extra first, 43@44c; first, 40@42c; seconds, 34@38c; thirds and poorer, 26@32c; held fresh, poor to fair, 22@29c; fresh gathered dirties No. 1, 24c; No. 2, 23c; fresh gathered checks, prime, 21c; do. poor to fair, 16@20c; refrigerator, special marks fancy, local storage charges paid, 25@26c; do. first, 23@24c; do. seconds, 21½@22½c; do. thirds, 18@21c; state, Pennsylvania and nearby hennery whites fancy, large new laid, 53c; do. selected whites, fair to good, 45@52c; western gathered whites, 38@46c; state, Pennsylvania and nearby hennery browns, 46@48c; do. gathered, brown and mixed colors, 38@45c.

All other grades of butter, cheese and eggs unchanged from Monday's prices.

Poultry, alive, steady; western chikens, 11@11½c; fowls, 12@13½c; turkeys, 14c; dressed, firm; western chickens, 5@16c; fowls, 5@16c; turkeys, 13@21c.

Cleveland Produce.

Cleveland, Dec. 19.—Butter unchanged. Cheese unchanged. Eggs, fresh, gathered, current receipts, 37c a dozen; do. seconds, 28c; refrigerator, extras, 23c; do. firsts, 21½c. Poultry—Alive, chickens, heavy, 12½@13c; light, 11@11½c; ducks, 15@16c; geese, 11@13c; turkeys, 20c; dressed, 1@2c pound above alive. Apples, unchanged.

Chicago Produce.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Butter, steady; creameries, 26@35c; dairies, 23@31c. Eggs, steady; receipts, 1,890 cases; at mark, cases included, 22@28c; ordinary firsts, 25@27c; prime firsts, 28@31c. Cheese, steady; daisies, 15¾@16c; twins, 15¼@15½c; young Americas, 15¾@16c; long horns, 15¾@16c. Potatoes, steady; choice to fancy Wis., 76@80c; Mich. and Minn., 82@85. Poultry, irregular; turkeys, alive, 14c; dressed, 18c; chickens, alive, 10½c; dressed, 10c; springs, alive, 10½c; dressed, 10c. Veal, steady; 50 to 60 lb. wts., 7@11c.

Cotton.

New York, Dec. 19.—Cotton futures opened steady: December, 9.19c; January, 8.80c; February, 8.82@8.85c; March, 8.92c; May, 9.04c; June, 9.08c bid; July, 9.15c; August, 9.14c bid; September, 9.17c; October, 9.25c; November, 9.26c bid.

The cotton market today opened steady at a decline of 1 to 4 points in sympathy with easier cables, but quickly firmed up on buying of the same character as that noted for the past two or three days, and shortly after the call ruled about net unchanged to 3 points above the closing figures of yesterday. The south was a seller here on the advance, however, and the market later turned easier under these offerings and realizing by recent buyers for a turn. Prices toward 11 o'clock were about 4 to 6 points net low, with the market rather nervous, although the trading was comparatively quiet.

The southern offerings were less active later in the forenoon and the market here steadied up again on continued covering combined with support from trade sources but trading was not active and fluctuations were more or less irregular within a point or two of last night's closing figures toward midday. Expectations as to the showing of the census report tomorrow ranged from about 13,600,000 to 13,900,000 bales. Unexpectedly large receipts at the ports probably tended to check fresh purchases but all indications point to big exports for the balance of the month. Spot, quiet; middling uplands, 9.45c nominal. Estimated receipts at all ports today, 102,000 against 96,599 last week, and 67,992 last year. For the week 450,000 against 441,563 last week, and 364,668 last year. Today's receipts at Galveston, 32,846, against 27,391 last year, at New Orleans 14,169 against 11,131 last year, and at Houston, 23,262 against 14,210 last year.

Boston Wool.

Boston, Dec. 19.—Wool trading continues fairly active, with values inclined to be firmer. Interest still centers in the lower grades with considerable territory and fleeces selling at good prices. One-quarter blood Ohio commands 25 cents, with the same for unwashed Delaine. Territory fine staple sells at 60@62c clean, while large amounts of Montana half blood has changed hands at 22 cents, with the scoured price 57@58 cents.

There is a better inquiry for pulled wools, while the foreign product is very active.

CLEWS SEES IMPROVEMENT

Most Striking Evidence Is Boom in Iron Trade.

New York, Dec. 18.—In various directions there are indications of slow but certain improvements, says Henry Clews. There are still some complaints of slackness in trade and in many instances profits are upon a smaller scale than for several years. At the same time the volume of general trade is fairly satisfactory.

By far the most significant element in the industrial situation is the striking improvement in the iron trade. The turn was made about the middle of October. Since then orders have steadily expanded, and this week the big producers of finished steel have been so besieged that in not a few lines capacity is fully engaged for four to six months ahead. Prices are already firmer.

In banking circles there is also a more hopeful feeling. A slight improvement in investment conditions is observable, and this tendency will probably become more marked as the time for the $220,000,000 January disbursements approaches near. There is an abundance of capital awaiting employment and only two conditions appear to be necessary for venture, viz., safety of principal and good returns. Investors are insisting upon the latter more firmly than usual. In other words, capital, too, as well as labor is demanding better returns.

SON'S EVIDENCE CONVICTS

Father Found Guilty of Murder—Daughter Aids Sire.

Lafayette, Ind., Dec. 19.—John W. Poole, charged with the killing of Joseph Kemper, a farmhand, last night was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentence was fixed at life imprisonment. The jury was out six hours.

Kemper, who had worked for Poole, disappeared suddenly in 1909, but little was thought of his absence until Emory Poole, a son, told the authorities that he believed the farmhand had been killed by his father. Kemper's body was later unearthed in a cornfield. The younger Poole was the chief witness for the prosecution.

Grace Poole, a daughter, provided counsel for her father with funds obtained by teaching school.

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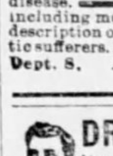

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TAFT HAS TOLD RUSSIA TREATY IS NEARING END

President Makes Definite Statement That Arrangement With Czar Is to Be Abrogated.

Washington, Dec. 18.—With the definite, though unofficial statement that President Taft formally had notified Russia that the treaty of 1832 with that country would be abrogated within the next two or three days, the senate committee on foreign relations today considered what form the abrogation should take.

Two propositions were laid before the committee.

The first of these was that the president should officially proclaim the abrogation, with ratification of his action by the senate.

The second was that the abrogation should be ordered in a joint resolution as proposed by the house. There was no thought, however, of adopting the language of the house document.

Most members of the committee inclined to the belief that the president should act with the senate alone and without regard to the house.

The committee also discussed at length the question as to whether or not the abrogation of the treaty should be considered in open session of the senate, as it was in the house, or whether the discussion should be behind closed doors in executive session.

Until this question was settled, it was declared no official statement would be made as to the message of the president on the subject of abrogation.

Resolution Framed.

A resolution satisfactory to the administration is said to have been framed by Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, a member of the foreign relations committee. This draft would briefly and simply declare the treaty abrogated, on the ground that it had become obsolete.

RUSSIA OFFICIALLY DENIES MAKING PROTEST TO U. S.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 18.—It is semi-officially announced that the Russian ambassador has not entered any formal protest against abrogating the Russo-American commercial treaty of 1832.

BLOCK STREET TO SEE ROOSEVELT

New Yorkers Mass in Greeting as Colonel Stops to Seek Automobile.

New York, Dec. 18.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, emerging from the Labor Temple Sunday afternoon, where he had made an unscheduled speech, could not find his automobile and, while looking around for another, caused a crowd to collect that blocked street traffic.

Somebody shouted "There's Teddy!" and in a moment he was surrounded by a throng that grew larger as the colonel strode along Fourteenth street looking for a taxicab.

When two policemen forced their way into the crowd to find out what the trouble was, the colonel good-naturedly explained and they held up a passing automobile.

Motorman Lashes Teddy.

It was a private machine, and the lone driver was for going on until the colonel took a hand in the conversation himself. Meantime a trolley car had come to a stop behind the automobile.

"Hey, you," the motorman shouted to the former president, "run your blamed machine up against the curb if you want to get in. Don't you know anything? Get off the track."

With a grin for an answer, Mr. Roosevelt hopped into the tonneau and the machine bolted off amid the cheers of the crowd.

Talks to Hebrews.

Colonel Roosevelt's speech at the Labor Temple was mainly of a religious character. Rev. Charles Stelzle was down on the program to speak on "What About the McNamara Case?" but on the unexpected arrival of the former president, he cut short his address and invited Colonel Roosevelt to succeed him. About half of the audience were Hebrews.

"I believe in a living church," said the colonel, "but not in a religion that does not translate itself into activities for decency for the masses. The worst reflection that can be cast on any church is that as the population becomes dense the church moves out.

"The church should fight for the masses. We are a democracy and our national experiment can mean nothing unless we keep it a democracy. Every reform, every social movement must be for the masses, or it has no place here."

A Scotch minister took one of his parishioners to task for his nonattendance at kirk. The man said: "I dinna like lang sermons." The parson with some wrath replied: "John, ye'll dee, and go to a place where ye'll not have the privilege of hearing lang or short sermons." "That may be," said John, "but it winna be for lack of parsons."

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OHIO GOES BACK AS WHEAT STATE

Drops From Third to Ninth Place Among Producers in Ten Years' Period.

As a producer of wheat Ohio dropped from the rank of third in the list of the ten best states in 1899, to the position of ninth in 1909.

With a decreased acreage of corn, the state rose from the rank of seventh to that of sixth, among the ten best corn producing states. The comparative rank of these states in wheat acreage and production, as shown by figures issued Saturday by the census bureau, is:

Wheat Acreage.

1909.	1899.
1. N. Dakota.	1. Minnesota.
2. Kansas.	2. N. Dakota.
3. Minnesota.	3. S. Dakota.
4. S. Dakota.	4. Kansas.
5. Nebraska.	5. Ohio.
6. Illinois.	6. Indiana.
7. Washington.	7. California.
8. Indiana.	8. Nebraska.
9. Missouri.	9. Missouri.
10. Ohio.	10. Michigan.

Wheat Production.

1909.	1899.
1. N. Dakota.	1. Minnesota.
2. Kansas.	2. N. Dakota.
3. Minnesota.	3. Ohio.
4. Nebraska.	4. S. Dakota.
5. S. Dakota.	5. Kansas.
6. Washington.	6. California.
7. Illinois.	7. Indiana.
8. Indiana.	8. Nebraska.
9. Ohio.	9. Missouri.
10. Missouri.	10. Iowa.

The rank of the ten best corn producing states was:

Corn Acreage.

1909.	1899.
1. Illinois.	1. Illinois.
2. Iowa.	2. Iowa.
3. Kansas.	3. Kansas.
4. Nebraska.	4. Missouri.
5. Missouri.	5. Nebraska.
6. Oklahoma.	6. Texas.
7. Texas.	7. Indiana.
8. Indiana.	8. Ohio.
9. Ohio.	9. Georgia.
10. Kentucky.	10. Tennessee.

Corn Production.

1909.	1899.
1. Illinois.	1. Illinois.
2. Iowa.	2. Iowa.
3. Indiana.	3. Kansas.
4. Missouri.	4. Nebraska.
5. Nebraska.	5. Missouri.
6. Ohio.	6. Indiana.
7. Kansas.	7. Ohio.
8. Oklahoma.	8. Texas.
9. Kentucky.	9. Kentucky.
10. Texas.	10. Oklahoma.

Acreage Held Significant.

So far as wheat is concerned, the census report indicates that by working less ground the farmers of the United States, in the aggregate are getting a slightly larger production, while advanced prices have increased the value of the crop 77.8 per cent in the decade.

With 1909 as a bad year for corn, the farmers obtained a production less by 4.3 per cent on an acreage decreased by 3.7 per cent, than in 1899, but received 73.7 more for the crop.

"In making comparisons between the two censuses the data for acreage are the most significant, as changes in area planted to a given crop are due largely to broad economic tendencies which are fairly well indicated by returns of one year out of ten. The production, however, fluctuates from year to year in accordance with current conditions of rainfall, temperature, etc., so that a comparison between one decennial year and another may not show the true general tendencies," says the census report.

Wheat Yield Larger.

The area of wheat harvested decreased from 52,589,000 acres in 1899 to 44,261,000 acres in 1909, a decrease of 8,328,000 acres, or 15.8 per cent. Notwithstanding this decrease in acreage there was a slight increase in production, which rose from 658,534,000 bushels in 1899 to 683,350,000 bushels in 1909, an increase of about 25,000,000 bushels, or 3.8 per cent. The average production per acre, doubtless in part by reason of temporary weather conditions, rose from 12.5 bushels to 15.4 bushels. On the other hand, the value of the wheat crop increased enormously, $369,945,000 to $657,829,000, an increase of nearly $288,000,000, or 77.8 per cent. The average value of wheat per bushel thus increased from 56 cents to 96 cents, or about 71 per cent.

The land in wheat decreased from 35,430,000 acres in 1879 to 33,580,000 acres in 1889, followed by an increase to 52,589,000 acres in 1899, and again a decrease to 44,261,000 acres in 1909. The acreage in 1909 was thus only one-fourth greater than in 1879, although the population (1910 as compared with 1880) increased over 80 per cent during these 30 years. The production of wheat in 1879 was 459,483,000 bushels, as compared with 683,350,000 bushels in 1909.

Falls Behind Previous Pace.

The area of corn harvested increased from 94,913,673 acres in 1899 to 98,383,033 acres in 1909, a gain of 3,469,360 acres, or 3.7 per cent. Notwithstanding this expansion in acreage, there was a decrease in production, which fell from 2,666,324,000 bushels in 1899 to 2,552,190,000 bushels in 1909, a decrease of over 100,000,000 bushels, or 4.3 per cent. The average production per acre, doubtless by reason of temporary weather conditions, fell from 28.1 bushels to 25.9 bushels. On the other hand, the value of the corn crop increased enormously, from $828,192,000 to $1,438,554,000, a gain of over $600,000,000, or 73.7 per cent. The average value of corn per bushel thus advanced from 31 cents to over 56 cents, or about 80 per cent.

The increase in the acreage of corn from 1899 to 1909 was very much less than in either of the two preceding decades. The area in corn rose from 62,368,504 acres in 1879 to 72,087,752 acres in 1889, to 994,913,673 acres in 1899, and to 98,383,033 acres in 1909. The corn acreage in 1909 exceeded that of 1879 by about 58 per cent, whereas the population of the country during the same period increased a little over 80 per cent. The production of corn in 1879 was 1,754,592,000 bushels, as compared with 2,552,190,000 bushels in 1909.

Ohio and Neighbors.

In 1909 Ohio had 1,827,932 acres of wheat, a decrease of 1,381,142 acres, or 43 per cent from 1899. The production was 30,663,704 bushels, a decrease of 19,712,996 bushels, or 39.1 per cent. The total crop value was $31,112,975, a loss of $1,742,859, or 5.3 per cent.

The acreage of corn in Ohio in 1909 was 3,916,050, acres, a gain over 1899 of 90,037 acres, or 2.4 per cent. The production was 157,513,300 bushels, a gain of 5,457,910 bushels, or 3.6 per cent. The total crop value was $82,327,269, a gain of $34,289,374, or 71.4 per cent.

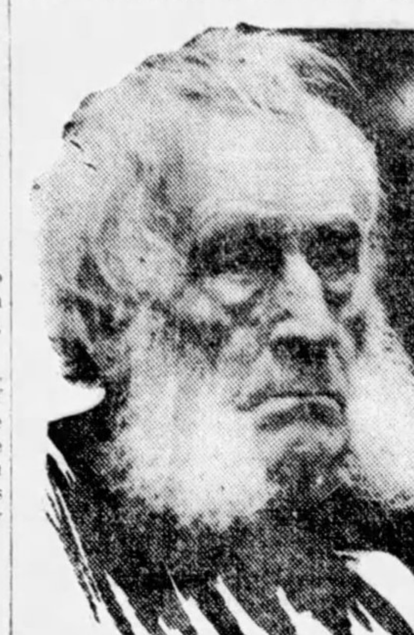
Indiana had 2,082,835 acres of wheat in 1909, a decrease from 1899 of 810,458 acres, or 28 per cent. The production was 33,935,972 bushels, a decrease of 1,050,308 bushels, or 3 per cent. The crop value was $33,593,141, an increase of $11,364,225, or 51.1 per cent.

Of corn, Indiana had 4,901,054 acres in 1909, an increase of 401,805 acres, or 8.9 per cent. The corn production was 195,496,433 bushels, an increase of 16,529,393 bushels, or 9.2 per cent. The crop value was $98,437,988, an increase of $46,685,042, or 90.2 per cent.

Michigan had 802,137 acres of wheat in 1909, a decrease of 1,123,632 acres, or 58.3 per cent. The production was 16,025,791 bushels, a decrease of 4,509,349 bushels, or 22 per cent. The crop value was $16,586,868, a gain of $3,664,943, or 28.4 per cent.

The corn acreage of Michigan in 1909 was 1,589,596 acres, an increase of 88,407 acres, or 5.9 per cent. The production was 52,906,842 bushels, a gain of 8,322,712 bushels, or 18.7 per cent. The crop value was $29,580,929, a gain of $11,782,918, or 66.2 per cent.

Aged Diplomat Link With Past



JOHN BIGELOW

A Very Generous Spectacle Offer.

One of the most remarkable offers made by a large company is the one now being announced by the Dr. Haux Spectacle Company, of St. Louis, Mo., who are offering to send a brand new pair of the Dr. Haux famous Perfect Vision Glasses to all our readers absolutely free of charge. There is no reason whatever why you should not get a good pair of Glasses free if you are a spectacle-wearer, and we, therefore, advise you to write to the company at once for full particulars. Address, DR. HAUX, The Spectacle Man, St. Louis, Mo.

DIDN'T KNOW HIS SON

Apparent Stranger Shakes Hand With Kentucky's New Governor.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 13.—There was a surprise awaiting Governor McCreary yesterday after he had taken the oath of office. In the new capitol he was holding a reception, shaking hands with old friends and strangers alike, with a string of officers keeping the crowd moving. One man seemed anxious to reach the executive, and when he did so he held his hand long and with apparent fondness.

The governor was mystified. He thought the face familiar, but could not recall the name.

Makes Visit as Surprise.

"Well, who is this?" demanded the governor.

"Why, dad, I came down from Chicago to see you inaugurated," replied Robert McCreary, of Chicago, who had come to Frankfort to surprise his father.

There was a hint of tears in the aged statesman's voice as he said. "Well, well." That was all he could say, though in the past he never has been known to fail at speechmaking.

Officer Pushes Son Away.

At this juncture one of the officers pushed the son away, telling him to move on and not to block the procession.

"Why, this is my son, Robert," said the governor and the line was held while father and son talked a moment and then the son moved on.

After the reception they met again for a long talk. It was the first time the governor had seen his son in several years.

TAFT MAY VETO PENSION BILL

Sherwood Measure Likely to Be Held Up.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Although appealed to today by Judge Harvey M. Trimble, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and other officers of that organization, to do all in his power to provide increased pensions for civil war veterans, President Taft, it is believed, will not sign any act providing such an increase as the Sherwood dollar-a-day bill, which recently passed the house. The President, it was said, refused to commit himself during the call of the veterans as to how he would act. The G. A. R. officers made no reference in their appeal to the Sherwood or any other specific bill.

TEN YEARS FOR CULT LEADER

He Starved His Companions to Death on Voyage.

Portland, Me., Dec. 18.—Ten years in the federal prison at Atlanta was the sentence imposed today upon the Rev. Frank W. Sanford, leader of the Holy Ghost and Us society of Shiloh, for causing the deaths of six persons on the yacht Coronet.

Sentence was pronounced by Judge Clarence Hale in the United States court. The Shiloh leader was sentenced on the first of six counts of the indictment which charged manslaughter in causing the death of six of his followers by neglect in failing to provide the necessaries of life on the recently completed seven months cruise along the shores of three continents.

FINISH BIGGEST INLAND LOCK

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 19.—The largest inland ship lock in the world has just been completed here at a cost of $1,250,000. The contract was let by the government in 1908.

The lock is 600 feet long and 70 feet wide. It is considered one of the greatest engineering feats along the Great Lakes, being big enough to carry the largest freighters. The gates are operated by Niagara Falls power.

JOHN BIGELOW, 95, DIPLOMAT, IS DEAD

Aged Author, Journalist and Great Statesman Comes Peacefully to End.

New York, Dec. 19.—John Bigelow, the venerable diplomat and author, died at his home here today.

Mr. Bigelow died in the 95th year of his age, in the old-fashioned house on Grammercy park that had long been his residence.

Three days ago he suffered a return of an ailment incident to advanced age which laid him low last June at his summer home in Highland Falls. For more than two days he suffered intense pain, but eight or ten hours before death came a partial paralysis of the senses and for several hours he lay smiling at those about him, but unable to speak.

Old New England Family.

John Bigelow came from one of the oldest New England families, his first American ancestor having settled in Watertown, Mass., in 1642. He was born at Malden-on-Hudson, New York, November 25, 1817. He graduated at Union college in 1835, was admitted to the bar in 1839, became joint proprietor with William C. Bryant, and managing editor of the New York Evening Post in 1849, was appointed consul at Paris by President Lincoln in 1861, charge d'affaires in 1864 and envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to France in April, 1865. During his official residence he discovered conclusive evidence of the connivance of the French government in a plot to furnish the confederacy with four first-class ironclad steamers, and by the wise use of the testimony obtained the plan was thwarted. In 1883 Mr. Bigelow published an account of these transactions under the title "France and the Confederacy." He also conducted the negotiations in France which resulted in the expulsion of the French imperial army from the Republic of Mexico in 1867. At the termination of his mission he received from the American residents in Paris the compliment of a substantially unanimous invitation to a farewell dinner at the Grand Hotel in Paris, December 19, 1866, the first of its kind ever paid to an American diplomat at any foreign court. After his resignation he returned to the United States and devoted himself principally to literary pursuits.

On Canal Commission.

He was appointed chairman of the commission organized at the request of Governor Tilden to investigate the management of the canals of the state of New York in 1874, in 1875 was elected secretary of state of the state of New York, in 1884 was offered the position of Chamberlain of the city of New York, and in 1885 the position of Assistant Treasurer of the United States, both of which he declined.

During the years 1843-5 Mr. Bigelow was a frequent contributor to the Democratic Review. He was one of the five inspectors of the state prison at Sing Sing, 1845-8, and was the author of all their annual reports to the legislature. He visited the island of Jamaica in 1850 and upon his return published "Jamaica in 1850" During his residence in Paris he published "Les Etats Unis d'Amerique en 1863," his purpose being to correct the erroneous notions of the French people in regard to the relative commercial importance of the northern and southern states. This work effectively discouraged the supposed desire of the French national government for the dismemberment of the federal union, and also exerted no inconsiderable influence in shaping the events which resulted in overthrowing dynasties in France and consolidating the present republican government in that country.

ROYALTY FALLS IN SEA

Niece of King Comes Near Drowning When Boat on Way to Safety Capsizes.

Gibraltar, Dec. 14.—Princess Louise Victoria, princess royal of Great Britain and Ireland and sister of King George V. and her daughters had a thrilling experience yesterday when the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Delhi, on which they were voyaging to Egypt, struck the reefs off Cape Spartel, the northwestern extremity of Africa.

While being taken ashore by the longboat of the British armored cruiser Duke of Edinburgh, they were thrown into the water by the capsizing of the boat, one of the daughters having a narrow escape from drowning.

She was rescued by a sailor and carried to land with the others, all suffering severely from the bitter cold.

Mast-High Seas.

The Delhi struck at one o'clock in the morning in a thick fog. Immediately all the passengers hurried from their staterooms half dressed and put on life preservers. Water poured steadily into the cabins while enormous seas, sometimes mast-high, broke over the vessel. Signals of distress were sent out by wireless and the first warship to arrive was the French cruiser Friant.

It was long past daylight before the Friant's steam launch was able to come alongside the Delhi. In the meantime preparations were made aboard the stranded steamer to send the women and children ashore. One of the boats of the Delhi was lowered and filled with passengers. The launch finally succeeded in getting this in tow, and then steamed to the British cruiser Duke of Edinburg, where the frightened women and children were safely taken aboard.

Ship in Critical Position.

The Duke of Edinburgh with 38 of the rescued passengers arrived here last night. It was expected that the royal party would reach Gibraltar aboard the battleship London, but latest reports state that they had decided to remain for the night at Tangier, where they are housed in the British legation.

One of the women passengers, in describing the wreck, said that there was not the slightest panic after the vessel struck. The passengers were summoned to dress and go on deck, but were assured that there was little danger.

The Delhi is reported to be in a critical position. She is broadside on the rocks. The salvage vessel Gibelmusa has sailed from here with lighters and will make an attempt to save the specie, mails and luggage.

PEACE IN CHINA IS DUE TO THE UNITED STATES

This Country Succeeds in Getting the Powers of Europe to Act in Harmony.

Washington, Dec. 19.—To the United States belongs the credit of bringing about a concert of action in China by the six great powers of the world.

The Washington government initiated the movement which now has taken definite form at Shanghai. What is regarded here as the most unusual and most satisfactory feature of the situation is the fact that, contrary to past experience, the six powers now practically are united in their aims and desires regarding China.

The United States has been the agent to bring the powers into a common agreement based upon a recognition of the necessity of preserving the integrity and autonomy of China. Whether this is accomplished under a Republican or an imperial form of government is not regarded as material

Although it has not yet been necessary for the representatives of the six powers to directly intervene, the fact that they stand ready to use their good offices, if desired, has had its effect. Washington believes that success will attend the meeting of the peace committees at Shanghai and that the present armistice will be replaced by a condition of peace without relapse into war.

The American plan which now gives promise of success found its inception in a note addressed by the state department to the various powers concerned in China several weeks ago.

Asks for Opinion.

This note actually invited an expression of opinion from the recipients as to the best method for the protection of foreign interests in China during the revolutionary disturbance with a decided implication that joint action, which would relieve any individual power of the temptation to seize opportunities for its own advantage, would be wise and prudent.

The suggestion met with a happy reception and it appears that the diplomatic representatives of all of the powers at Peking now are working with a common purpose to terminate the present conflict upon terms that will safeguard the rights of all concerned.

$190,000,000 IS 1911 FARMS' GAIN

Shrinkage in Crops More Than Offset by Large Uplift in Prices.

Washington, Dec. 19.—With decreases in the production of the eleven important farm crops, not including cotton, the value of these crops this year reached a total of $3,769,562,000, according to the final estimate announced yesterday by the department of agriculture.

This is an increase of almost $190,000,000 over their value last year.

The department's final estimate of production today differs considerably from its preliminary estimate made in November because of a revision of the acreages, based upon the census bureau's figures which became available since that time. The important features of the different crops, compared with last year, were:

Corn—An increase of 1,790,000 in acreage, a decrease of 354,772,000 bushels in production and a decrease of $3,167,000 in value.

Oats Have Good Gain.

Winter Wheat—An increase of 1,833,000 in acreage, a decrease of 3,486,000 bushels in production, and a decrease of $3,167,000 in value.

Spring Wheat—An increase of 2,029,000 in acreage, a decrease of 10,297,000 bushels in production, and a decrease of $14,821,000 in value.

Oats—An increase of 390,000 in acreage, a decrease of 258,215,000 bushels in production, and an increase of $8,257,000 in value.

Barley—A decrease of 116,000 in acreage, a decrease of 13,592,000 bushels in production, and an increase of $38,756,000 in value.

Rye—A decrease of 88,000 in acreage, a decrease of 1,778,000 bushels in production, and an increase of $2,604,000 in value.

Million Gain in Buckwheat.

Buckwheat—A decrease of 27,000 in acreage, a decrease of 49,000 bushels in production, and an increase of $1,099,000 in value.

Flaxseed—An increase of 290,000 in acreage, an increase of 6,652,000 bushels in production, and an increase of $5,800,000 in value.

Rice—A decrease of 26,500 in acreage, a decrease of 1,576,000 in production and an increase of $1,650,000 in value.

Potatoes—A decrease of 101,000 in acreage, a decrease of 56,295,000 bushels in production, and an increase of $39,212,000 in value.

Hay—A decrease of 2,674,000 in acreage, a decrease of 13,534,000 tons in production, and a decrease of $53,199,000 in value.

Tobacco—A decrease of 353,000 in acreage, a decrease of 198,306,000 pounds in production, and a decrease of $16,932,000 in value.

BUTTER AND EGGS REACH TOP

New York, Dec. 19.—Butter and eggs are selling in New York at the highest prices registered for more than ten years. Dealers and warehouse men point to the prices as a justification of the cold storage system, contending that the threatened legislation, affecting cold storage, is one of the principal causes for the high prices. Eggs are selling wholesale at 44 to 55 cents a dozen, and butter at 38 to 40 cents. Retail prices of eggs range from 48 to 75 cents and butter is sold at from 40 to 50 cents.

Reports received from producing sections point to still higher prices within the next month.

THE WEEK IN CONGRESS

Monday, Dec. 11.—Senate—In session at 2 p. m. Lorimer election inquiry was resumed. Federal corporation commission urged before interstate commerce committee by Francis L. Stetson of New York. Ineffectual effort made for a vote on the Newlands' legislative program. Senator Cummins introduced a bill to give independent tobacco organizations the right to appeal from American tobacco reorganization. Bill prohibiting "So help me God" in oaths introduced by Senator Burton.

House—Met at noon. Railroad securities commission report on the issuance of stocks and bonds was submitted by the president. District of Columbia legislation was considered. Russian treaty abrogation was urged before foreign affairs committee by New York and Philadelphia committees. Agreed with senate for holiday recess Dec. 22 to Jan. 3. Wholesale election frauds in Fayette county, Pa., charged before election committee. Democratic caucus likely will be held soon to determine whether to take up first tariff revision or anti-trust legislation. Sherwood dollar a day pension bill debate, resumed. Vote tomorrow.

Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Senate—In session at 2 p. m. Lorimer investigating committee again heard witnesses for the defense.

A national corporation commission was urged before interstate commerce committee's anti-trust hearing.

House—Met at noon. Sherwood dollar a day pension bill passed, 229 to 92. Foreign affairs committee agreed to favorably report Sulzer resolution for abrogation of Russian treaty. Steel committee heard testimony on Bessemer and Lake Erie stock uggling.

Wednesday, Dec. 13.—Senate—In session at 2 p. m. Announced in Lorimer hearing that Senator Lorimer would testify before end of week. An early conclusion of the investigation seems assured. George W. Perkins urged before interstate commerce committee a plan for a federal commission for licensing corporations. New York Jewish delegation urged abrogation of Russian treaty at foreign relations commitee hearing. Parcels post project discussed before postoffice committee. Pension committee to consider service pension legislation after Christmas holidays. Bill appropriating $50,000 for the Briceville, Tenn., mine sufferers introduced by Senator Lee (Tenn.). Senator Cummins (Iowa) spoke on his bill providing for supreme court review of the tobacco reorganization decree. President submitted reports on Philippine land laws and Malambo, P. I., fire claims. Agreed with house for holiday recess from December 21 to January 3. House service pension bill referred to committee.

House—Met at noon. Miscellaneous business from committees considered. Steel committee continued hearings on ore rates charged by railroads controlled by steel corporation. Representative Sulzer, of New York, spoke on his bill to abrogate the Russian treaty. Sulzer bill abrogating Russian treaty of 1832 passed, 390 to 1.

Thursday, Dec. 14.—Senate—In session at 2 p. m. Lorimer election inquiry nearing an end. Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, discussing trust regulation before interstate commerce committee, urged the competitive system. Final hearings before employers' liability commission begun, with railroad counsel urging the inclusion of all interstate business in the act. Opponents of parcels post appeared before postoffice committee. Senator Works (Cal.) asked investigation of soldiers' homes and urged federal care of confederate veterans. President Taft in message submitted Maine board's report. Bill requiring two wireless operators on steamers introduced by Senator Hitchcock (Neb.). Lorimer committee struck from record Maxwell Edgar's testimony that C. S. Darrow was concerned in attempt at bribery. Monetary commission held a conference on state bank examinations. Page bill enlarging federal aid for agricultural instruction endorsed at conference. Senator Culberson (Tex.) called up treaty. Debate indicated adoption of house Russian treaty abrogation resolution before holidays.

House—Met at noon. Miscellaneous bills were considered. Steel trust traffic agreements with southern railroads looked into by steel investigating committee. Public buildings committee decide to frame omnibus building bill against Democratic leader's opposition. New York cotton speculators attacked in speech by Representative Heflin, of Alabama. The bill extending the eight hour law to all governmental contract work was debated. Bill passed extending eight hour law to all government contract work.

Friday, Dec. 15.—Senate—Not in session. Edward Hines and "Manny" Abrahams, were witnesses at the Lorimer inquiry.

Louis D. Brandeis, Boston attorney, continued criticism of United States Steel corporation before the interstate commerce committee.

Railroad counsel discussed with employers liability commission various suggestion for a liability bill.

House—Met at noon and agreed to adjourn today until Monday, making Saturday the first idle week day since congress convened.

Steel investigation continued.

Senator Oliver, (Pa.), testified that ore rates to Pittsburg were too high. Rules committee heard argument by Representative Lindbergh, (Minn.), for investigation of the so-called money trust.

General Crozier urged on military committee a war basis supply of ammunition for the army.

Saturday, Dec. 16.—Senate—Not in session. State Representative Hull, of Illinois, testfied before Lorimer election inquiry that a "whisky lobby" had existed at Springfield. Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, spent his third day before interstate commerce committee giving views on the "trust evil."

House—Met at noon. Debated $2,270,000 urgent deficiency bill with passage planned for late afternoon. Steel and other inquiry commissions in recess until Monday. Anti-trust law amendment putting burden of proof of reasonableness of trade restraint on defendant introduced by Lenroot. Chairman Fitzgerald, of appropriation committee, charged that government estimates had been cut below actual needs; that treasury deficit is in prospect and that investigating committees are costing heavily. Republican Leader Mann said he hoped Sulzer resolution on Russian treaty would be amended to avoid objectionable language.

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RADICAL REFORMS REALLY TO BEGIN IN CHINA NO

Peking, Chihli Province, China, Dec. 14.—Did the Old Buddha mean what she said in her memorable reform edict of January 28, 1901? We must not be too skeptical or too cynical, says Dr. George A. Dorsey, Ph. D., in the Chicago Tribune. We must not expect too much. But two things seem certain: China had made up its mind that the Old Learning made for impotency and if longer persevered in would spell disaster appalling and absolute. that, willy nilly, the New Learning must be tried out. China at last was awake. She would arm herself with new weapons to meet the new conditions. She didn't like the new conditions. They were not of her making, but—

"I have returned once more to my palace and find the ancestral temples reposing as of old in dignified and unbroken serenity. Beneath the deep awe which overcomes me in the presence of my glorious ancestors, my soul feels an added weight of grief and remorse, and I only hope that by heaven's continued favor I may yet live to accomplish some meritorious work."

Did the Old Buddha loose a reform wave which will give China a really representative, constitutionality limited monarchy before it will come to Prussia or Japan? Perhaps. For we must not forget that China is already the most democratic nation on earth.

Manchus Not the Real Rulers.

The Manchus are not the real rulers of China. No. They are just the police. Viceroys are but the beginning of a system which reminds Putnam Weale of the dog that worried the cat that killed the rat, etc. Not for 2,500 years has China had a feudal system. The emperor has been simply a patriarch, the head of a huge family, governing his people directly and symbolizing the highest authority.

It took the Manchus thirty years to set up a police system, the chief function of which was to forestall rebellion and forward enough rice to the capital to feed the Manchu court. Generally the viceroy policed two provinces; a rebellion in one could be put down by the police of the other.

The emperor writes a letter to his children, the Chinese people; he does it through his viceroys. They pass it on to the governors. And so on, through provincial treasurer, judge, salt controller, grain intendant, all these making up the provincial committee, until it reaches the tota or intendant of a circuit. He in turn turns it over to a prefect, and so it goes on through subprefects, department and district magistrates, and petty officials, until it gets into the hands of the village headsman, who nails it on the door of his office and somebody who can read tells the village what it is all about. And the village is just where it was before.

Great System of the Manchus.

But it was a great system—of police, of mutual responsibility, of equilibrium and compromise. But could the Manchus hold out? For generations it had been easy. They came to power on the crest of victory. They were warlike; the Chinese peace loving. Their early emperors were great men; they made the most of the prestige of their arms; they restored peace; they promoted enlightenment and earning; content with their glitter and their pensions, they let the Chinese alone. And they grew up slothful and indolent. Still, there they were, in the saddle, and the Chinese who seeing them there, and looking up the accomplished fact as a sign from heaven, accepted and abided by the decision.

First awakening, 1830, proved that the Manchus were not invincible; consequent loss of prestige. Second disillusionment, 1860. The burning of the summer palace was less a blow to China, the Chinese thought, than a personal insult to the Manchus—let them avenge the insult!

And the Manchus considered what steps they should take. We know that they failed, that they even tried the silly expedient of becoming more conservative than the conservative Chinese literati, that they repudiated Kuang Hsu's reforms of 1898, and that in January, 1900, they sought to arrest decay by nominating to the throne the second son of Prince Tuan haughtiest and most conservative of Manchu nobles. That plan failed ignominiously. And the Boxers were originally as anti-Manchu as anti-foreign.

So she again expressed herself, a few days later, in no uncertain terms. Not for a moment, she says, has she ceased to brood over the "causes of our national misfortunes and to feel deep remorse." She is sorry reforms were so long delayed, whenever she thinks of China's undoing and the "causes of our collective weakness." She is now bent on reform. "Abandoning our former prejudices we must proceed to adopt the best European methods of government. I am firmly determined to work henceforth on practical lines, so as to deliver the empire from its present rotten state. The condition of the empire permits of no further evasion or delay in the matter of reform. Therein lies our only hope for the future."

Old Examinations Abolished.

In another decree she deplores the ignorance of the Manchus and authorizes noblemen to send their sons abroad to be educated. In 1904 she abolished the ancient system of examinations—hereafter only the degree of the New Learning would the door to officialdom. By de the opium traffic was to cease w ten years. And ancient forms of ture were to be abandoned.

The year 1904-'05 finds China a h less and a silent witness to a col struggle. Russia and Japan were gaged in a mighty fight for sup acy. They were fighting on Chi soil and for Chinese territory. C felt her impotency, and the war served to harden the bitterness of despair of ever getting right with world or with herself.

It was time for another move. imperial commission in charge of Manchu Prince Duke Tsai was to Europe to study various syst of constitutional government. It hardly to be expected that the c mission would return with a cut dried constitution which would b panacea for all ills. As a matte fact, the commission did its w hurriedly.

As soon as they returned, in summer of 1906, the empress s moned a conference of high offic A long and interesting struggle lowed. The reformers urged imm iate action; the moderates held b Out of a long series of confere were born three imperial decrees. we shall see, reform was still so what in the air. But the fact th royal commission had been sent Europe was proof that China knowledged her weakness and t the reign of misrule, weakness, corruption must come to an end.

First Royal Decree.

The first decree, of Sept. 1, rec that the commission has been dir ed to make a carful investigation the various systems of governm The fundamental weakness of empire, according to the com sion's report, is a lack of interco between the throne and ministers state and the masses. Officials not know how to protect the peo the people do not know how to s guard their country.

The second decree came the n day. First step in the reform of official system—ministers were ponted, seven Manchus and se Chinese. They must act loyally, triotically, discuss and report. A tional members are to be selected certain viceroys. A central com tee to supervise the deliberations nominated.

Thereupon followed the third cree, Nov. 3, which had to do w the enforcement of the recomme tion of the commission. The comm sion was continued in order to di the reformation of the official s tem. The board of punishments came the board of judicature; board of revision became the Supr court; a board of agriculture, pu works, and commerce was creat also one of posts and communicati All boards, except the wai-wu-pu foreign office, were to have but president and two vice presidents.

The great decree was soon to co It could not be delayed longer. our impatience it may seem t since the Old Buddha admitted change of face in 1901 not much h been accomplished. But a scant cade is but a day in China's hist A great deal had been done. The c tral government had gained time. real meaning of the reforming decr had been slowly percolating to ends of the empire, and to reflex tion to which they led must be cou ed as something tangible. The cl of the old time serving system h run down. Aladdin was getting rea to rub his lamp.

Diver Repairs Foundation.

For six years a diver has been engaged in an unparalleled task beneath the walls of Winchester cathedral, England, laying now foundations to replace the original work performed in the thirteenth century. The old foundations had begun to give way, allowing the walls to crack and lean out. Pumping was out of the question, as it would have weakened the entire structure. The diver was put to work in the dark caverns, removing peat and excavating for new foundations of concrete. Sacks of the material were lowered to him, ripped open and their contents dumped into place. The work has been almost completed.

SHERWOOD BILL PASSE

Dollar a Day Pension Mea ure May Cost U. S. $75,000,000 Yearly.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The Sh wood "dollar a day" pension which Secretary of the Interior Fis has estimated ultimately will invo $75,000,000 annual expenditure, passed by the house last night, 229 92.

The bill would authorize pensio ranging from $15 to $30 a month, cording to the length of service union veterans who served nine days or more.

The vote was along nonpartis lines, the great majority of Democra and Republicans favoring it. A d of interesting debate preceded t passage of the bill, which has be under discussion four days.

Representative Fitzgerald, cha man of the appropriation committe the most violent opponent of the b delivered a speech, accusing the hou of extravagance. He warned Democratic colleagues that th could not make an economy record they passed the Sherwood bill, wi this large appropriation.

The original measure was amend in several particulars. Representati Mann obtained amendments maki the bill apply to veterans of t Mexican war and to old soldiers co fined in soldiers' homes, both of whi classes were exempt in the origi bill.

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